

xxxHolic

OMNIBUS 1

CLAMP



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TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
William Flanagan

LETTERED BY
Dana Hayward



xxxHOLiC crosses over with *Tsubasa*. Although it isn't necessary to read *Tsubasa* to understand the events in *xxxHOLiC*, you'll get to see the same events from different perspectives if you read both!

xxxHOLiC Omnibus volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha Comics not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics books.

- san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.
- kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

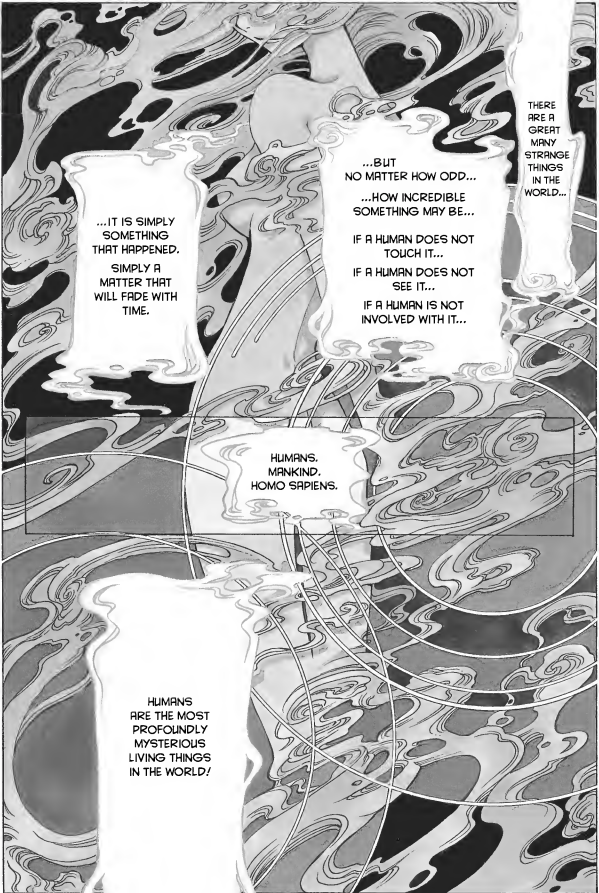
Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as yobisute, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



...IT IS SIMPLY
SOMETHING
THAT HAPPENED.

SIMPLY A
MATTER THAT
WILL FADE WITH
TIME.

...BUT
NO MATTER HOW ODD...

...HOW INCREDIBLE
SOMETHING MAY BE...

IF A HUMAN DOES NOT
TOUCH IT...

IF A HUMAN DOES NOT
SEE IT...

IF A HUMAN IS NOT
INVOLVED WITH IT...

THERE
ARE A
GREAT
MANY
STRANGE
THINGS
IN THE
WORLD...

HUMANS.
MANKIND.
HOMO SAPIENS.

HUMANS
ARE THE MOST
PROFOUNDLY
MYSTERIOUS
LIVING THINGS
IN THE WORLD!

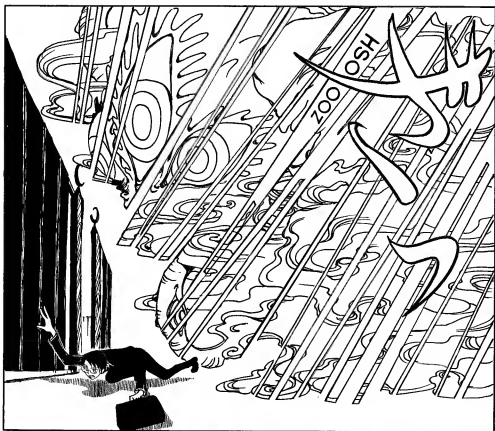
XXX HOLIC

～×××ホリック～

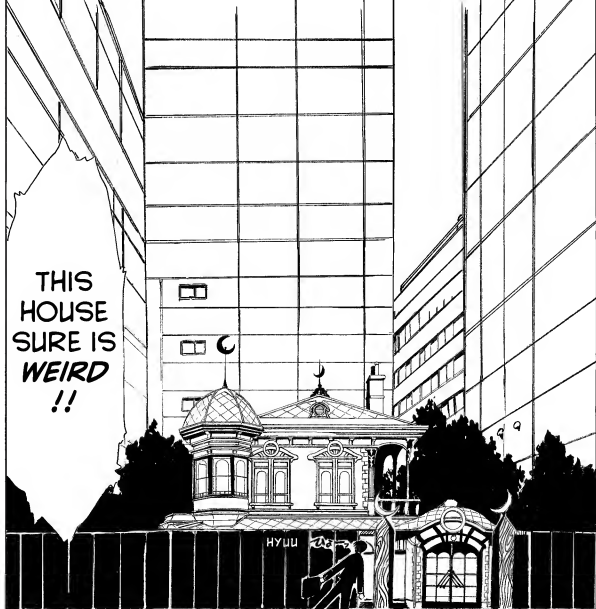








THIS
HOUSE
SURE IS
WEIRD
!!



I SAID **WAIT!!**

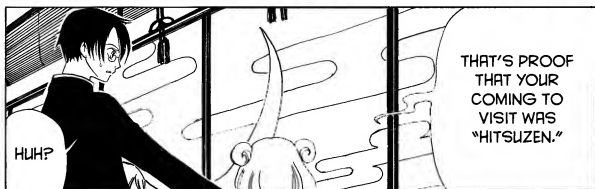
IT'S NOT RIGHT
TO WALK INTO
SOMEBODY'S
HOUSE WITHOUT
ASKING!



H-HEY!!
HOLD ON
A SECOND!

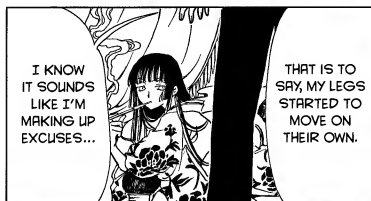














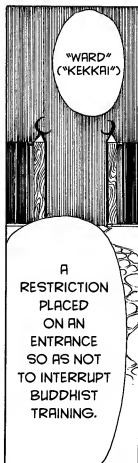
**ENOUGH
OF
THAT!!**

KODAN-
SHA'S—

EXIT AND
ENTRY
FORBIDDEN.

INNER
SANCTUM
AND
OUTER
NAVE.

A
SET OF
BOUND-
ARIES.



"WARD"
("KEKKAI")

A
RESTRICTION
PLACED
ON AN
ENTRANCE
SO AS NOT
TO INTERRUPT
BUDDHIST
TRAINING.



**ENOUGH
OF THAT,
TOO!!**

VSSH
VSSH

A
BAD-
TEMPERED
KID! ♥

A
BAD-
TEMPERED
KID! ♥

YOU...

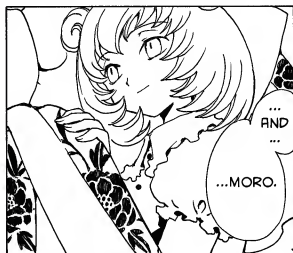
...HAVE
A BAD
TEMPER,
DON'T
YOU?



YOUR
NAME?

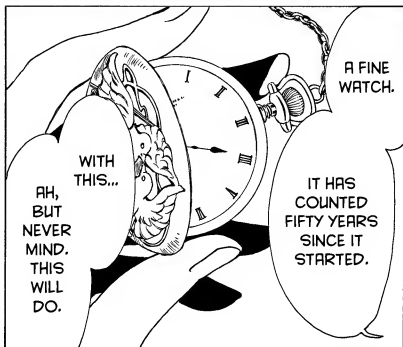


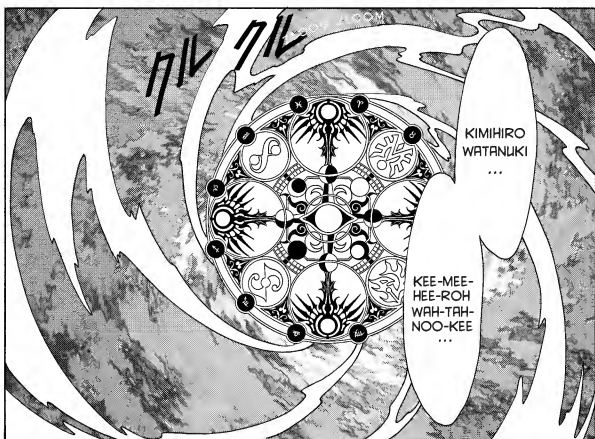
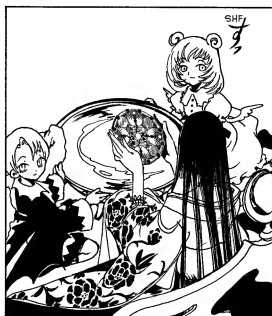
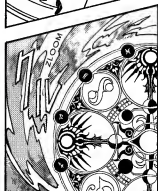
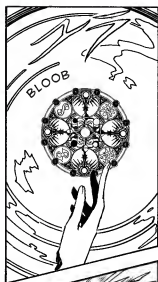














YOU HAVE
MOVED
SEVERAL
TIMES.

YOUR
BIRTH-
PLACE...

...IS NOT
WHERE
YOU LIVE
NOW.



PRESENTLY,
EVERYONE
LIVING UNDER
THE ROOF OF
YOUR HOUSE
HAS DIFFERENT
FAMILY NAMES.

THOSE YOU
LIVE WITH
ARE NOT
YOUR
PARENTS.

YOU WERE
LEFT IN AN
UNUSUAL
FAMILY
SITUATION.



THAT IS
GOOD,
BECAUSE
YOUR
SITUATION
FORCES
HOUSE-
WORK
UPON
YOU.

YOU
HAVE A
DEFT
HAND...

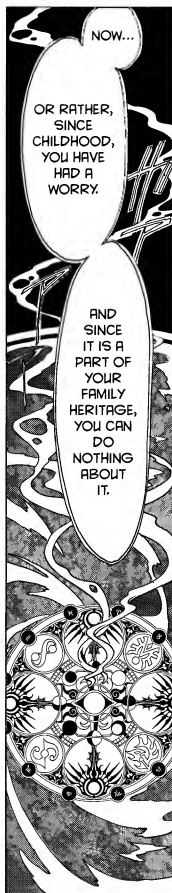
...AND
ARE
GOOD
WITH
HOUSE
WORK.



YOU...



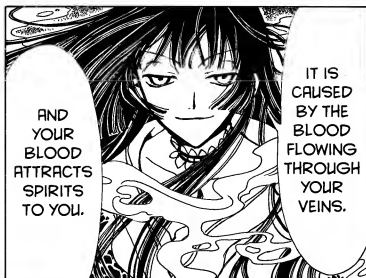
AND, IT
IS A
WORRY
THAT HAS
TO DO
WITH THE
OCCULT.



NOW...

OR RATHER,
SINCE
CHILDHOOD,
YOU HAVE
HAD A
WORRY.

AND
SINCE
IT IS A
PART OF
YOUR
FAMILY
HERITAGE,
YOU CAN
DO
NOTHING
ABOUT
IT.



AND
YOUR
BLOOD
ATTRACTS
SPIRITS
TO YOU.

IT IS
CAUSED
BY THE
BLOOD
FLOWING
THROUGH
YOUR
VEINS.



H—
HOW DID
YOU—



JUST
FROM
THAT,
YOU
KNEW?

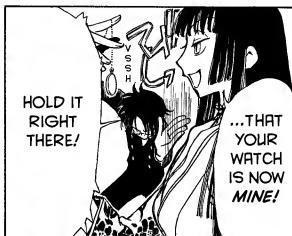
YOU
TOLD ME
YOUR
NAME AND
BIRTHDAY,
DIDN'T
YOU?

I CAN
TELL!

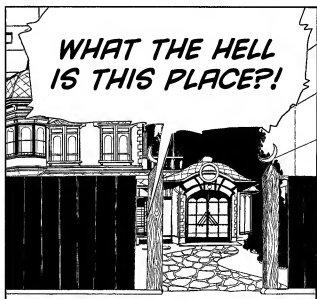
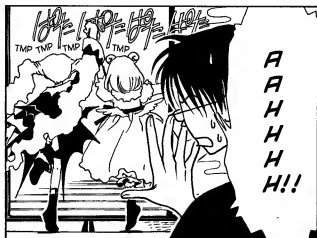
IT'S
WRITTEN
ALL
OVER
YOU!



YOU SEE
SPIRITS,
DON'T
YOU?

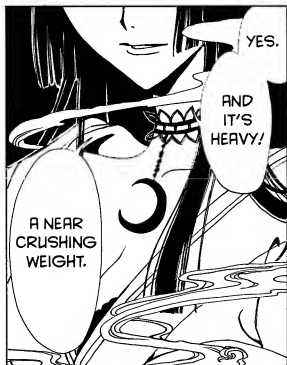










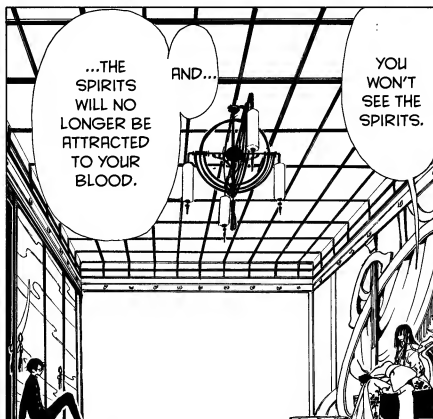
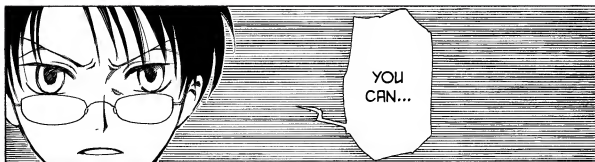


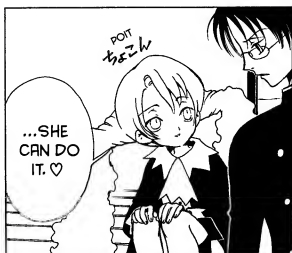


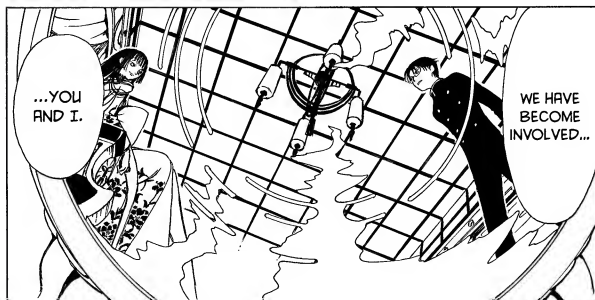


YEAH, BUT...













AND
THERE IS
A REASON
WHY YOU
CAME TO
OUR SHOP

THAT
THERE IS
MEANING
TO THIS
MEETING
BETWEEN
YOU AND
ME.



WHAT
ARE
YOU
SAYING?

WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING...



UH...

JUST
A SEC.

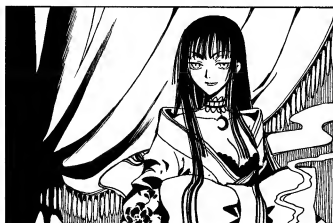


THAT
EVERYTHING
THAT
HAPPENS
IN A
PERSON'S
LIFETIME HAS
MEANING.



YOU
HAVE
A WISH,
DON'T
YOU?





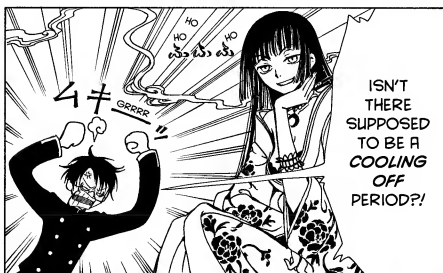




YOUR
APPLICATION
HAS BEEN
RECEIVED
AND ACCEPTED.
YOU CAN'T
CANCEL.

うし
うし

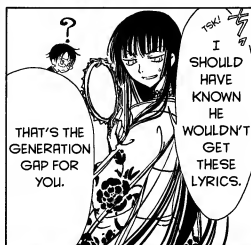
N—
NO, WE'D
BETTER
CALL THIS
OFF.



HO
HO
HO
ISN'T
THERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
**COOLING
OFF
PERIOD?!**

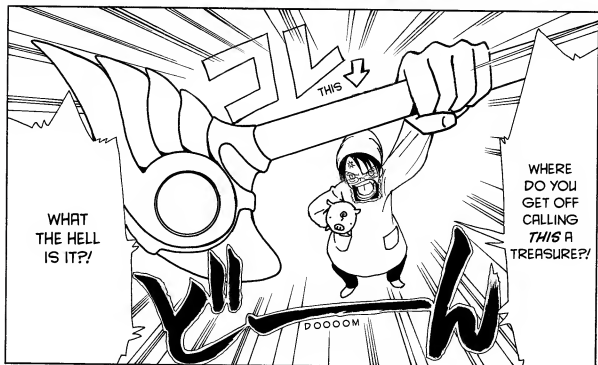
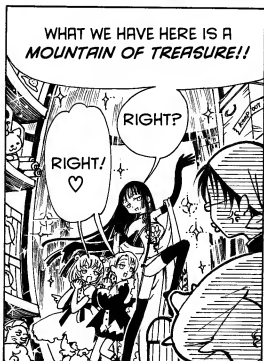


♪
OH,
MIRROR!
OH,
MIRROR!
MR.
MIRROR!
♪











SO *THAT'S*
WHERE IT
WENT TO!!



THE
FINEST
PLASTIC
MODEL
WAND THAT
YOU CAN
BUY.

IT JUST
FLASHES
LIGHT
AND
MAKES
SOUNDS.

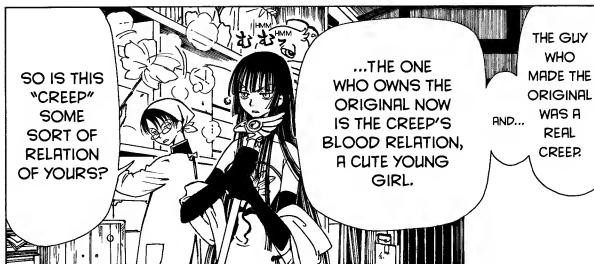


Y—
YOU MEAN
THIS IS—



IT'S USED
IN THE
PRACTICE
OF MAGIC.

YOU NEED
CARDS
FOR IT
TO BE
EFFECTIVE,
THOUGH.



SO IS THIS
"CREEP"
SOME
SORT OF
RELATION
OF YOURS?

...THE ONE
WHO OWNS THE
ORIGINAL NOW
IS THE CREEP'S
BLOOD RELATION,
A CUTE YOUNG
GIRL.

THE GUY
WHO
MADE THE
ORIGINAL
WAS A
REAL
CREEP
AND...



HEH,
HEH.
THAT
WILY,
BESPEC-
TACLED,
LITTLE...

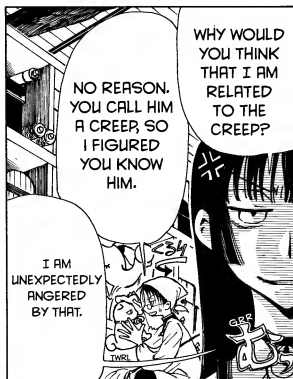
HOW DID
A CREEP
LIKE HIM
MAKE
SOME-
THING
SO CUTE?

HOW'D
THIS
HAPPEN?



WE'RE
IN THE
SAME
PRO-
FES-
SION.

AND
WE'VE
KNOWN
EACH
OTHER
A VERY
LONG
TIME.



NO REASON.
YOU CALL HIM
A CREEP, SO
I FIGURED
YOU KNOW
HIM.

I AM
UNEXPECTEDLY
ANGERED
BY THAT.

WHY WOULD
YOU THINK
THAT I AM
RELATED
TO THE
CREEP?



AH,
BUT IT
SEEMS...

...THE CUTE
YOUNG
GIRL AND
HER COM-
PANION.

BUT
I
HAVEN'T
MET
HER,
YET...

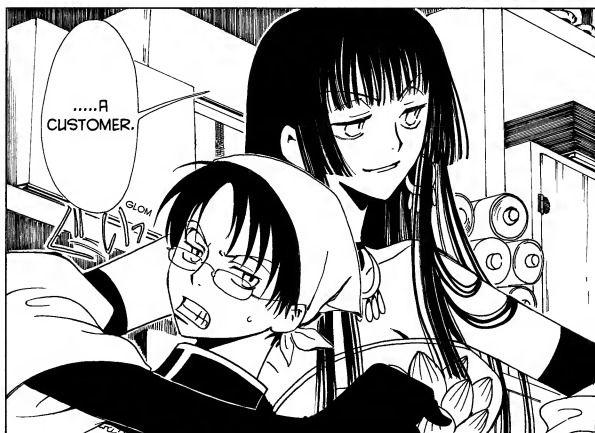
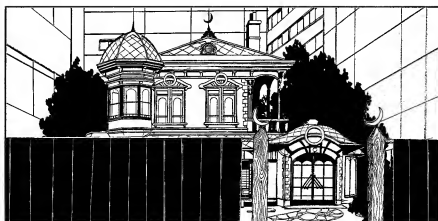


...IN THE
NEAR
FUTURE,
I WILL.

NOT
THE
SAME
ONES...

...BUT
IT'LL
BE
THEM.

WHA--?



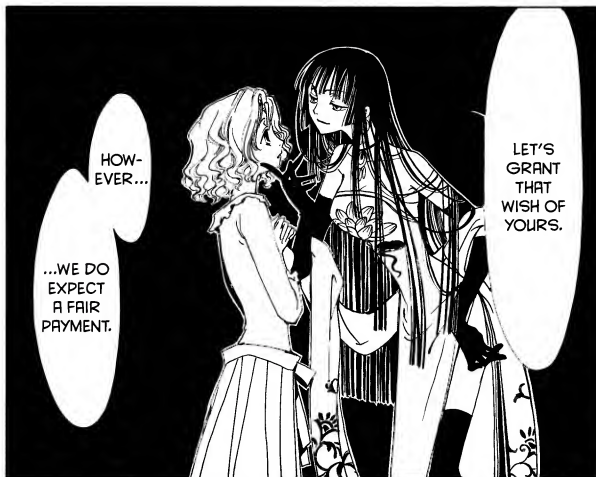




THE FACT
THAT
YOU'VE
COME
IN HERE
MEANS
THAT YOU
HAVE A
WISH.



GRANTS
WISHES?



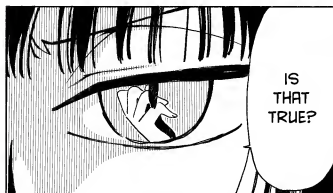
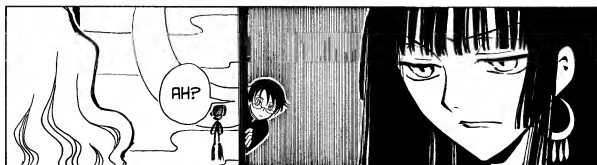
HOW-
EVER...

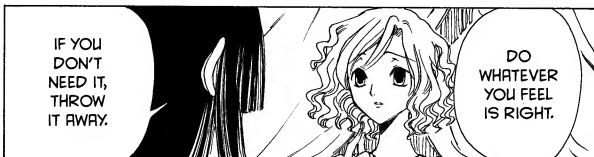
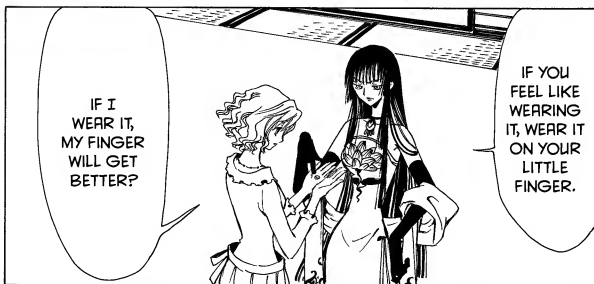
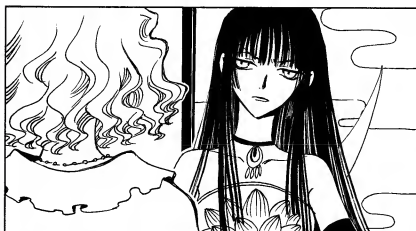
...WE DO
EXPECT
A FAIR
PAYMENT.

LET'S
GRANT
THAT
WISH OF
YOURS.





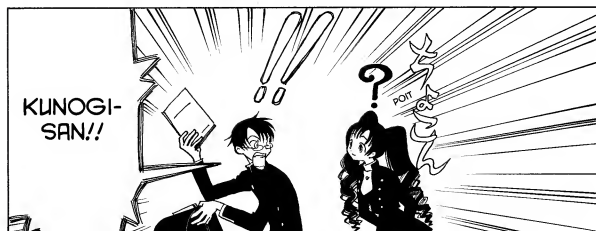


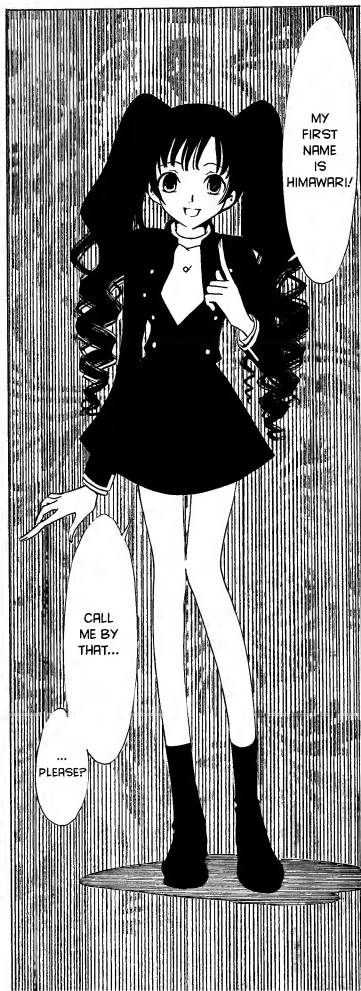


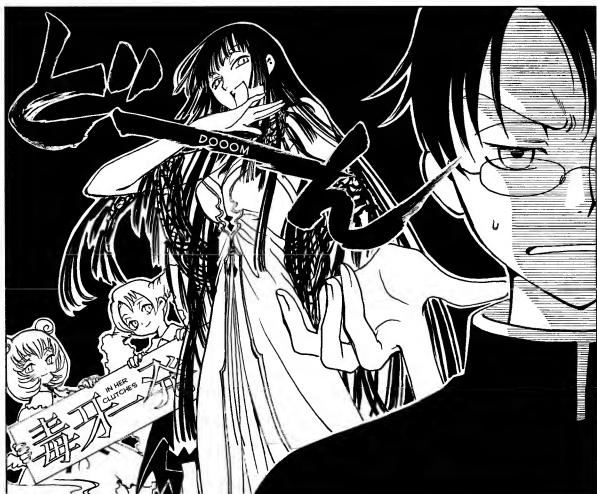




~ × × × ホリック ~

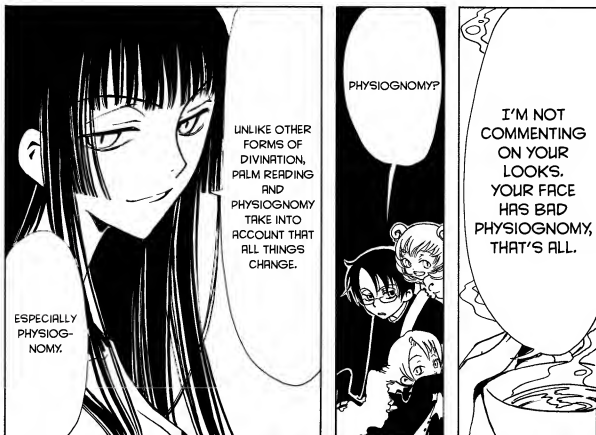














NONE OF THAT
IS TRUE!!

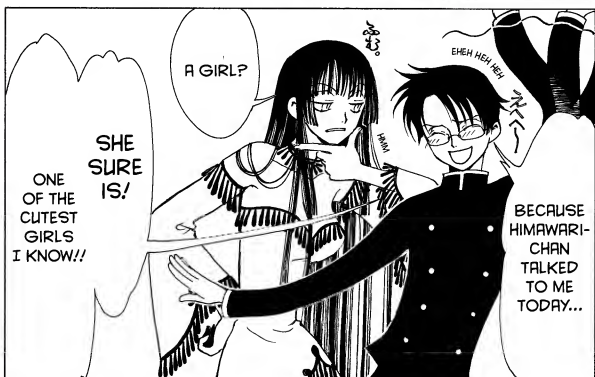
AND HOW
CAN YOU
BE SO
CERTAIN?



WHICH MEANS
YOUR
PHYSIOGNOMY
STATES THAT
BAD THINGS
WILL HAPPEN!



TODAY
YOUR FACE
IS BAD!



A GIRL?

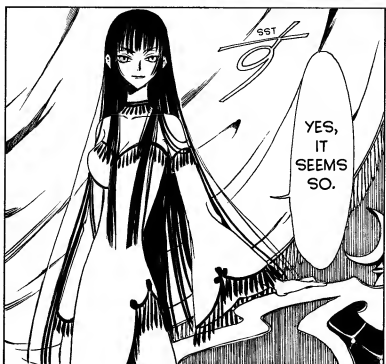
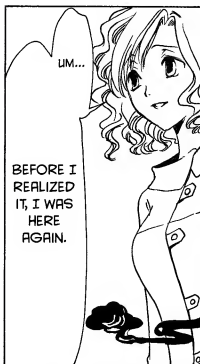
SHE
SURE
IS!

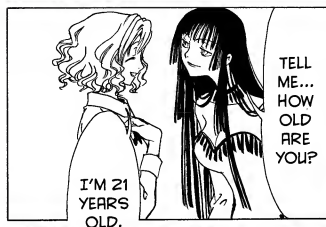
ONE
OF THE
CUTEST
GIRLS
I KNOW!!

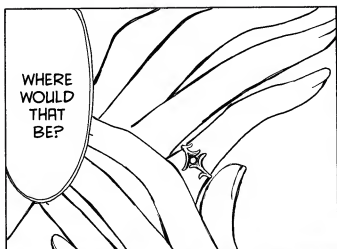
BECAUSE
HIMAWARI-
CHAN
TALKED
TO ME
TODAY...

EHEN HEH HEH



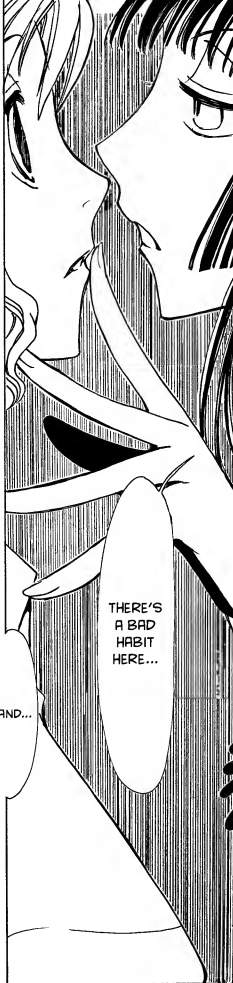








...A BAD
HABIT
HERE.



THERE'S
A BAD
HABIT
HERE...

...AND...



ARE
YOU
SURE...

...THAT
YOU
HAVE
NO
BAD
HABITS
?

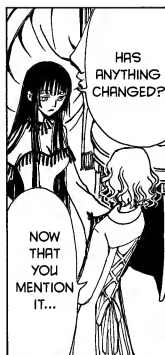


DOES IT
SEEM
LIKE I'M
DOING
ANYTHING
WRONG?



MY LITTLE
FINGER
ISN'T ALL
THAT'S
AFFECTED.

I CAN'T
SEEM TO
LIFT MY
ARM
ANYMORE.



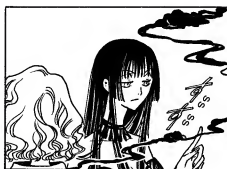
HAS
ANYTHING
CHANGED?

NOW
THAT
YOU
MENTION
IT...



...YOU'LL
BE OUT
OF TIME.

IF YOU
DON'T
REALIZE
QUICKLY...

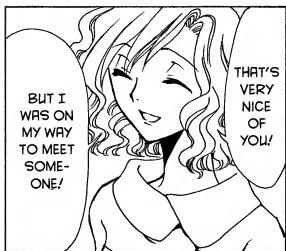




WOULD
YOU LIKE
A CUP
OF TEA?

I'LL
THINK
ABOUT
IT SOME
MORE.

I
UNDER-
STAND.



BUT I
WAS ON
MY WAY
TO MEET
SOME-
ONE!

THAT'S
VERY
NICE
OF
YOU!



MEET WHO?



IF YOU
KNOW,
AND GET
HEALED.

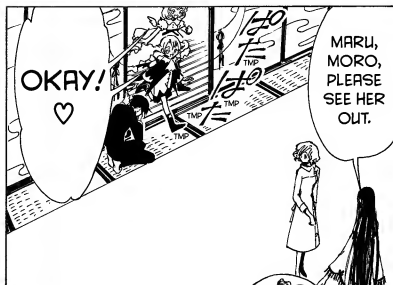
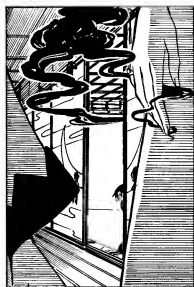


BAD
HABITS?

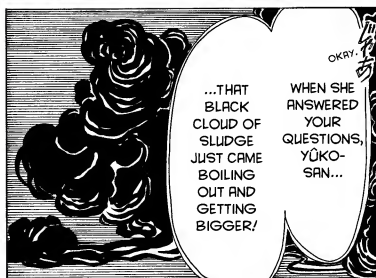
I CAN'T
SAY THAT
ANY
COME
TO
MIND.

AND
YOU'RE
SAYING
THAT IF
I KNEW,
MY ARM
WOULD
GET
BETTER.



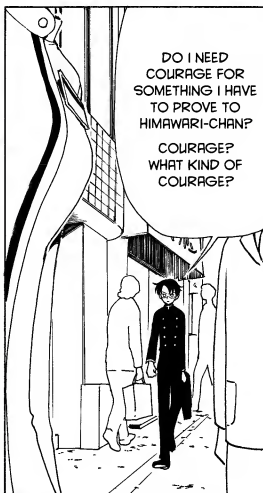
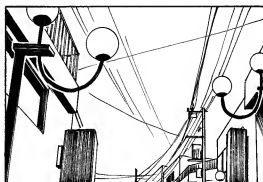


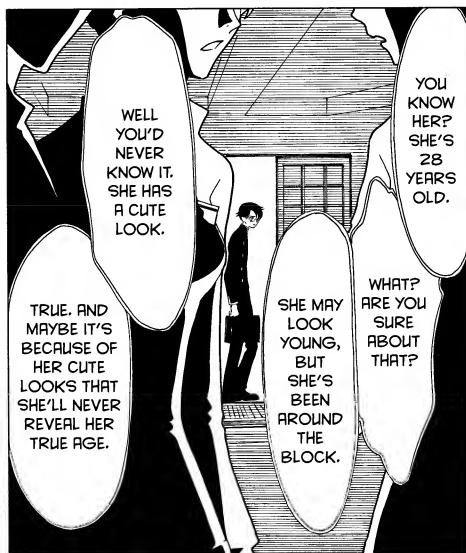














IT'S SO
BAD, I'LL
BET IT'S
JUST A
HABIT BY
NOW.



YEAH.

I
KNOW.

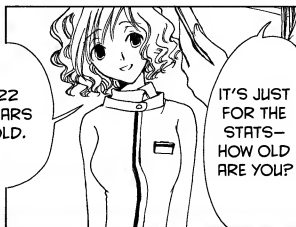
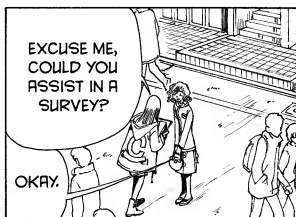
IT'S
NOT
JUST
HER
AGE...

WITH
HER...

...IT'S
ALWAYS
LIKE
THAT.



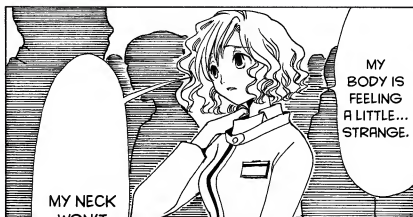
A
HABIT.





EVERY
TIME...

EVERY TIME
SHE TELLS
A LIE, THAT
THING GETS
A LITTLE
BIGGER.





IT'S
ALMOST
BLACK
WITH
DIRT!

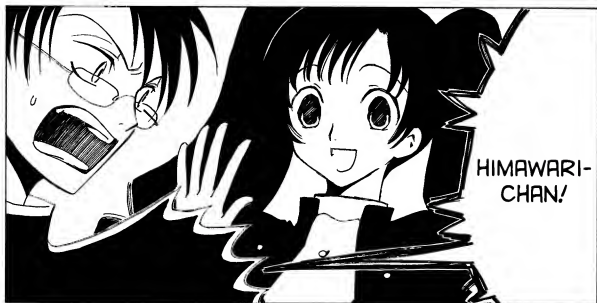


THE
RING..



WAAHH!





HIMAWARI-
CHAN!



OH, NO!
GONE
ALREADY!

OH,
NOTHING.
NOTHING.

WHAT
IS?



I'M SORRY.
DID I SCARE
YOU?



WORK'S
OVER
ALREADY.
I WAS ON
MY WAY
HOME.

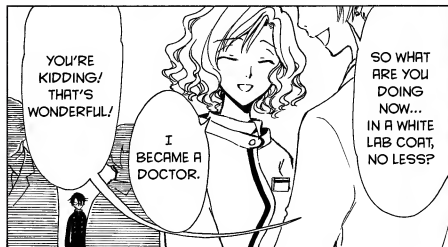
OR
WERE YOU
GOING
TO WORK?

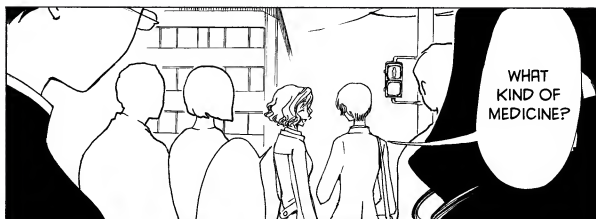
WATANUKI-
KUN,
ARE YOU
SHOPPING
TOO?

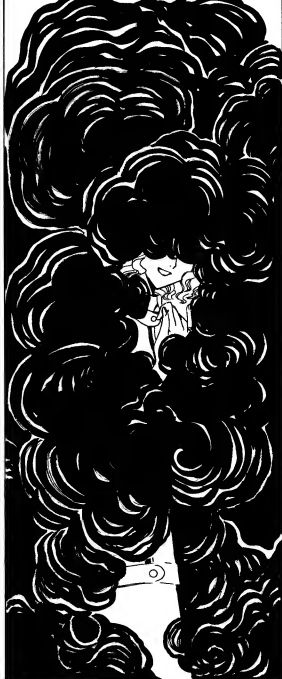
I CAME
DOWN HERE
BECAUSE I
HAD SOME
SHOPPING
TO DO.

UH, NO...
I, UH...

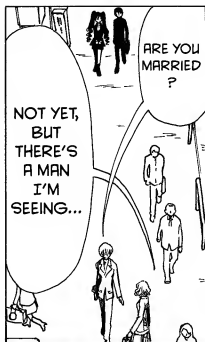








THAT'S
RIGHT.



NOT YET,
BUT
THERE'S
A MAN
I'M
SEEING...

ARE YOU
MARRIED
?



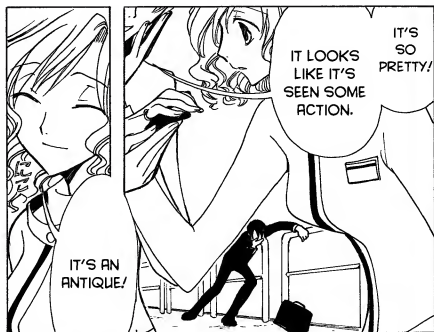
YOU GOT
THE RING
FROM
HIM!

I
GET
IT!



WATANUKI-
KUN?

GAK!



IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
SEEN SOME
ACTION.

IT'S
SO
PRETTY!

IT'S AN
ANTIQUE!



KA SNIK



I-I'M
SORRY. I
SUDDENLY
FELT A
LITTLE
DIZZY.

ARE YOU
ALL
RIGHT?

WATANUKI-
KUN, YOU'RE
LOOKING A
LITTLE PALE.

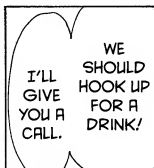
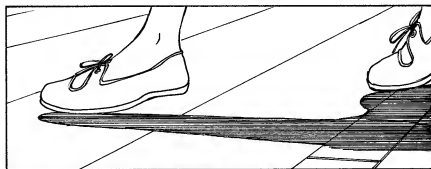
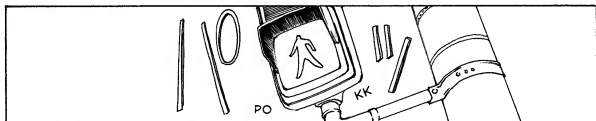


THE
RING...JUST
DEVELOPED
A CRACK!



THIS
IS
BAD!
THAT
STUFF!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT IT
IS, BUT I GET
THE FEELING
THAT IF IT GETS
ANY BIGGER,
SOMETHING
AWFUL WILL
HAPPEN!





NO!
DON'T
TAKE
THAT
OFF!!

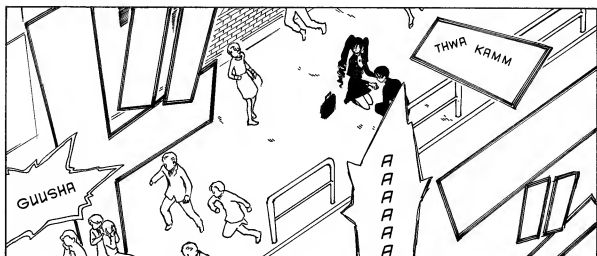


IF I
TAKE
IT OFF,
MAYBE
I CAN
CLEAN
IT...





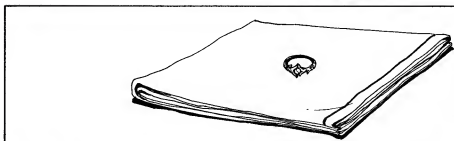




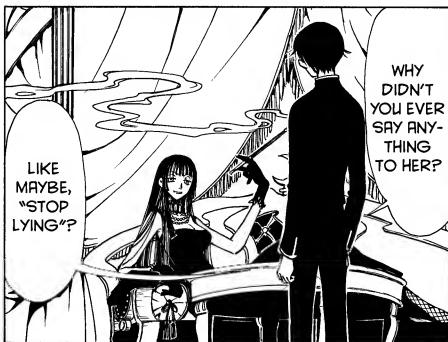




I SEE.



A
TRUCK.



LIKE
MAYBE,
"STOP
LYING"?

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU EVER
SAY ANY-
THING
TO HER?

AND IN
THE END,
THE WOMAN
NEVER...

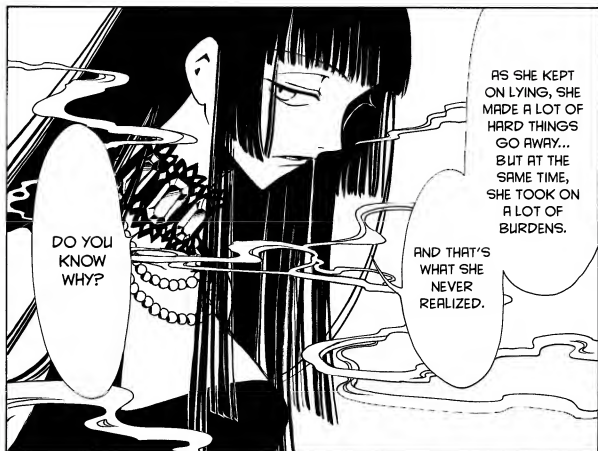
...
REALIZED.



YOU HAVE
TO CURE
THEM FOR
YOURSELF.

THE PROBLEM
IS HABITS.
THERE IS
NOTHING
ANYONE ELSE
CAN DO TO
CURE THEM.





DO YOU
KNOW
WHY?

AS SHE KEPT
ON LYING, SHE
MADE A LOT OF
HARD THINGS
GO AWAY...
BUT AT THE
SAME TIME,
SHE TOOK ON
A LOT OF
BURDENS.

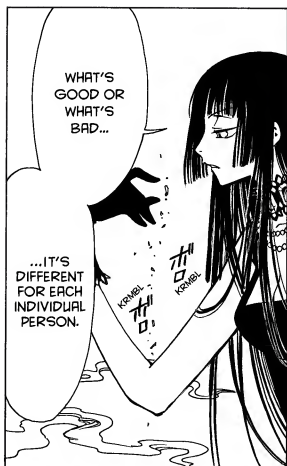
AND THAT'S
WHAT SHE
NEVER
REALIZED.



NO, I DON'T.



THE THINGS THAT
WENT AWAY AND THE
BURDENS SHE TOOK ON...
TO HER, WERE ALL EQUALLY
WORTHLESS.



WHAT'S
GOOD OR
WHAT'S
BAD...

...IT'S
DIFFERENT
FOR EACH
INDIVIDUAL
PERSON.



KA-CHINK
ロ
ッ



TO HER,
IF YOU
GIVE
ADVICE
ON
SOME-
THING
WORTH-
LESS...

...AND SAY,
"YOU SHOULD
DO THIS,"
OR, "YOU
SHOULDN'T
DO THAT,"
SHE'LL THINK
THAT YOU'RE
WASTING
HER TIME.



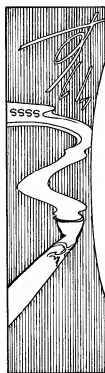
WHAT?

CAN I ASK A
QUESTION?



"I DOUBT
THERE WILL
EVER BE A
'NEXT TIME'
FOR YOU TO
ENTER THIS
SHOP"

WHEN THAT
WOMAN LEFT,
YŪKO-SAN,
YOU SAID
SOMETHING...





IF YOU THINK
THAT'S TRUE, IT
PROBABLY IS.



IF YOU
BELIEVE
THAT NOTHING
IS DECIDED,
THEN MOST
LIKELY,
NOTHING IS
DECIDED.

IF YOU
BELIEVE
THAT YOUR
DESTINY IS
DECIDED,
THEN MOST
LIKELY, IT'S
DECIDED.

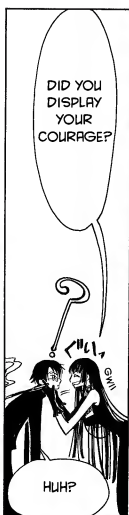


A WORLD IS
INFINITELY LARGE,
BUT ACTUALLY, IT'S
PRETTY SMALL.

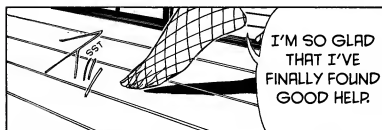
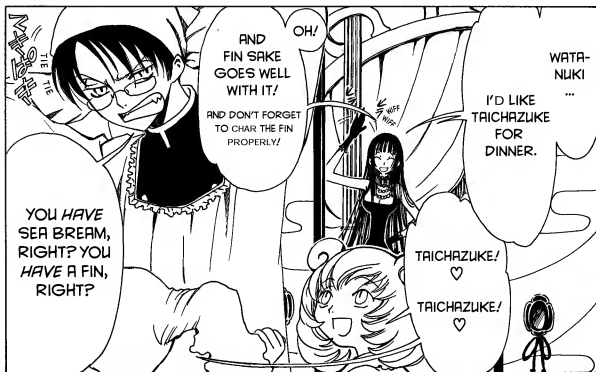
IT'S HOW A
WORLD IS.

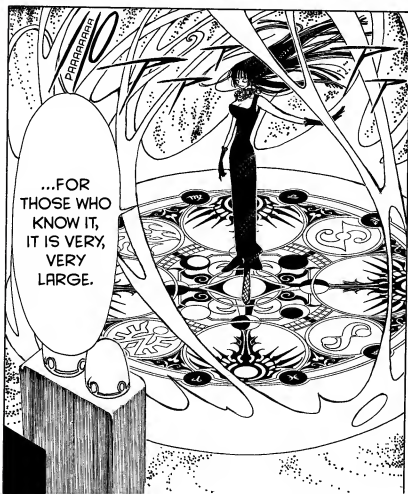
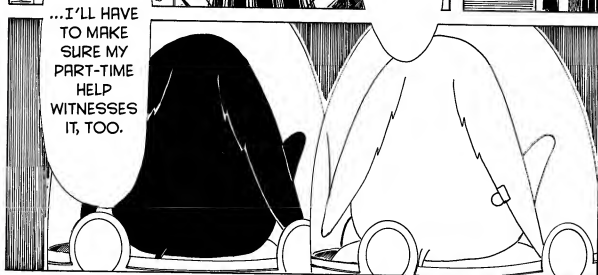
I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THAT MEANS.

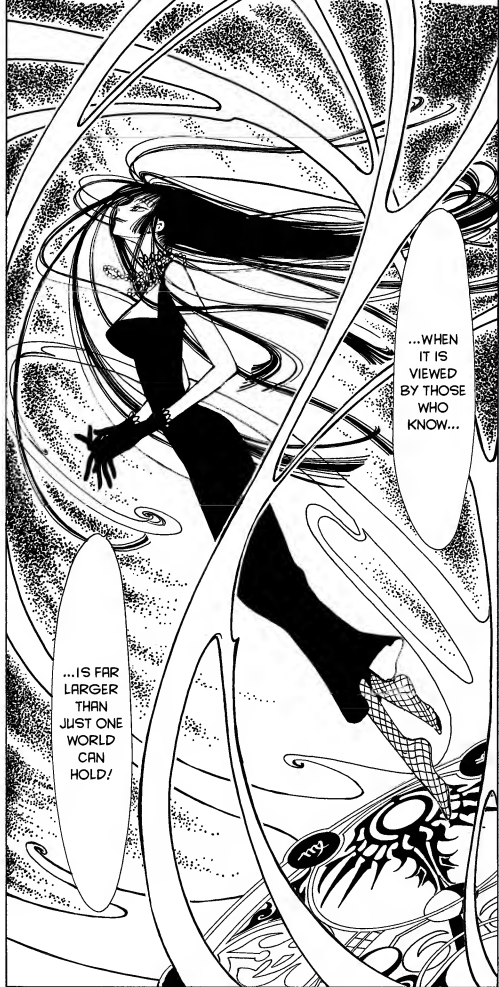












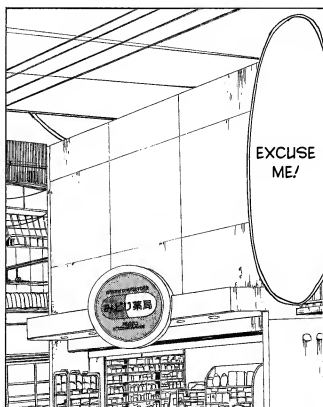
...IS FAR
LARGER
THAN
JUST ONE
WORLD
CAN
HOLD!

...WHEN
IT IS
VIEWED
BY THOSE
WHO
KNOW...

AND
THE
WORLD
...



~×××ホリック~





WE HAVE
TWO
TYPES,
REGULAR
AND
S-TYPE.



HEY, RIKUÔ!
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE THE
EKI-KYABE IS?



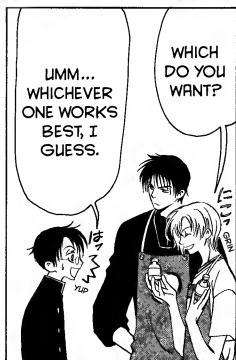
WHAT IS
THAT?

IT'S LIKE
SOMEONE
OR SOME-
THING HAS
ATTACHED
ITSELF TO
THOSE
TWO.

THE
NEWER
OF THE
TWO,
RIGHT?

THAT'S
THE S-
TYPE.

WHICH
DO YOU
THINK
WORKS
BETTER
?



UMM...
WHICHEVER
ONE WORKS
BEST, I
GUESS.

WHICH
DO YOU
WANT?





WILL YOU
KEEP YOUR
VOICE DOWN,
WATANUKI?

DOOM



I'M
BACK!

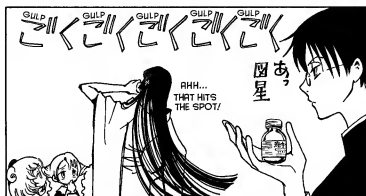


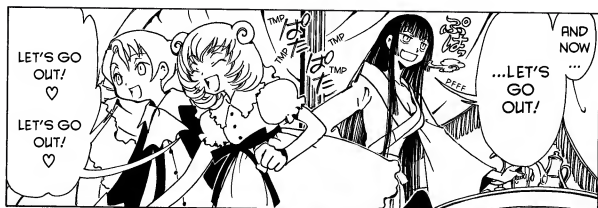
HERE
YOU
GO.

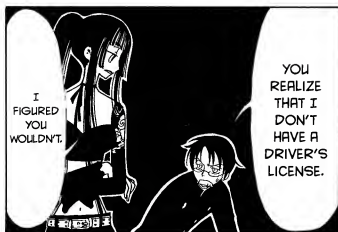


IT'S JUST A
HANGOVER,
ISN'T IT?
YOU GET NO
SYMPATHY
FOR THAT!

HAVE
YOU NO
SYMPATHY
FOR THE
ENFEEBLED,
YOU COLD-
HEARTED
LITTLE...









I THOUGHT ABOUT IT AND REALIZED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE, SO I TRIED TO MAKE ONE. IT'S PRETTY GOOD! VERY CONVENIENT!

I WAS PLAYING A CERTAIN GAME, AND I CAME ACROSS THIS PATH.

YOU'RE KIDDING!



NOT TO WORRY.

WE'LL BE TAKING THE AURORA PATH.

HEH

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!

HWOOOO



COME BACK SAFELY!

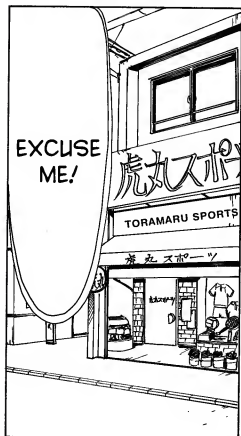
WE WILL!

♡

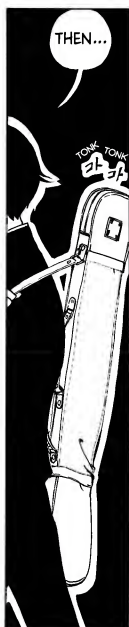
♡

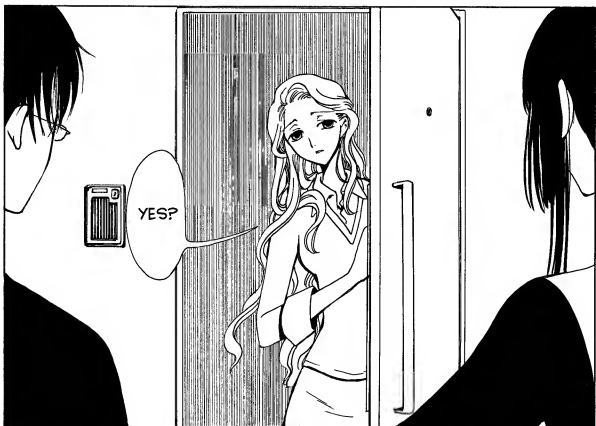
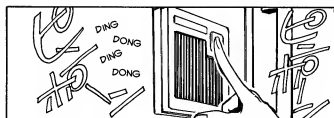
SEE YOU, MARU, MORO.

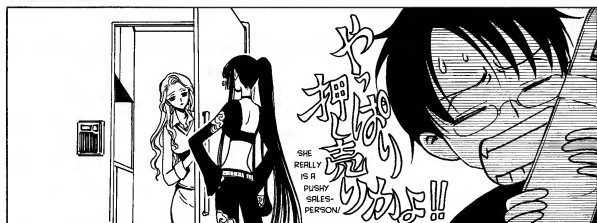
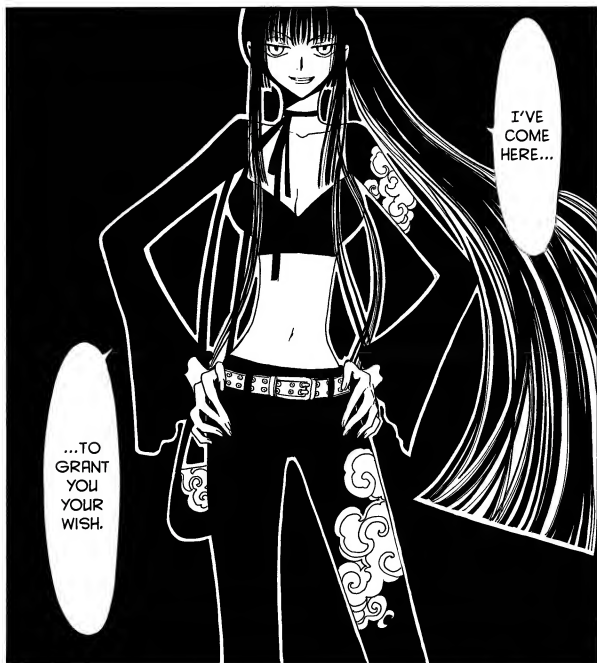
TAKE CARE OF THE PLACE WHILE WE'RE GONE.





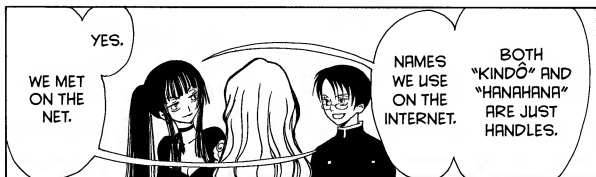
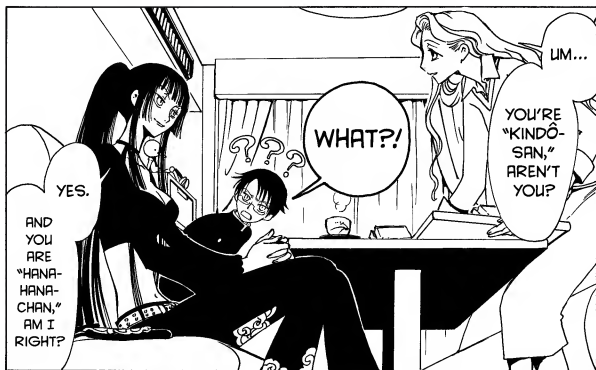


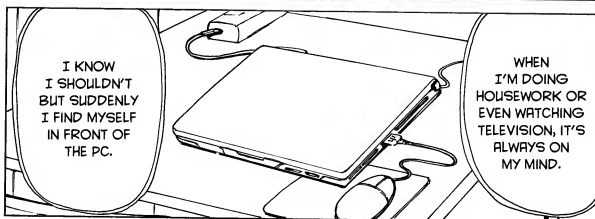
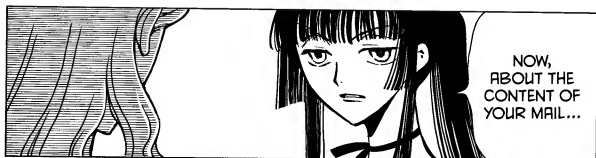


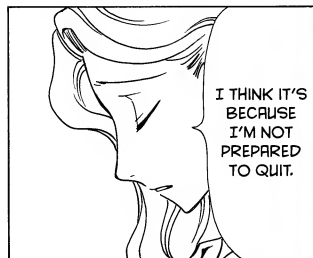
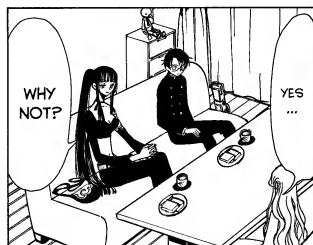
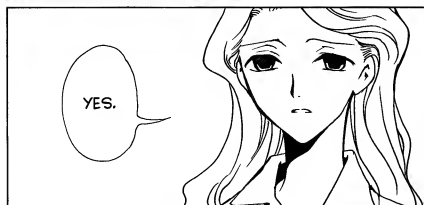


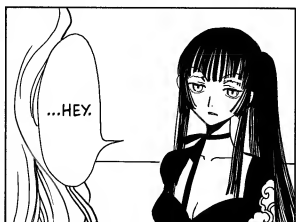
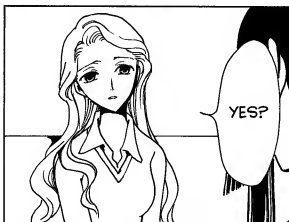
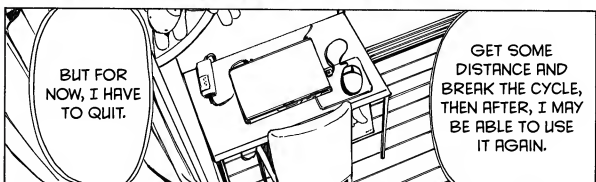
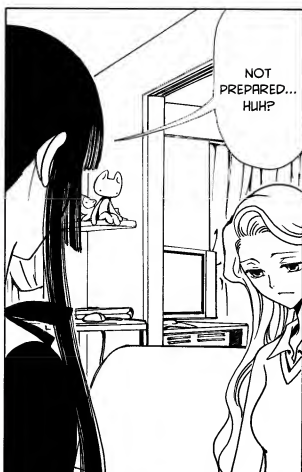


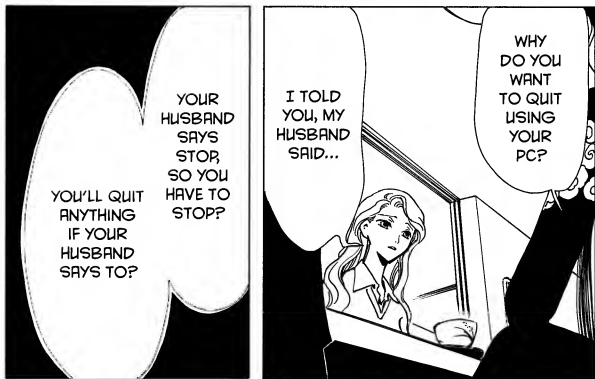










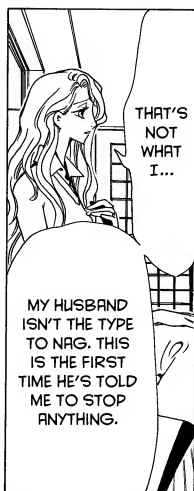




WHY
DO YOU
HAVE TO
PLAY WITH
THE KIDS?

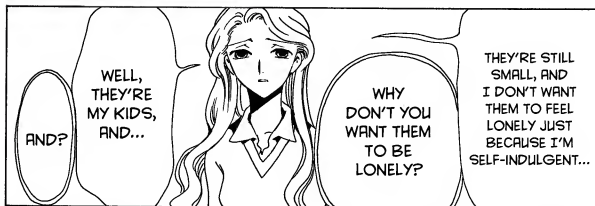


IT'S JUST THAT
I'M ON THE NET
ALL THE TIME,
I'M BEGINNING
TO NEGLECT THE
HOUSE, AND I'M
NOT FINDING TIME
TO PLAY WITH THE
KIDS... HE SAID HE
COULDN'T STAND
BY AND WATCH
ANYMORE.



THAT'S
NOT
WHAT
I...

MY HUSBAND
ISN'T THE TYPE
TO NAG. THIS
IS THE FIRST
TIME HE'S TOLD
ME TO STOP
ANYTHING.



AND?

WELL,
THEY'RE
MY KIDS,
AND...

WHY
DON'T YOU
WANT THEM
TO BE
LONELY?

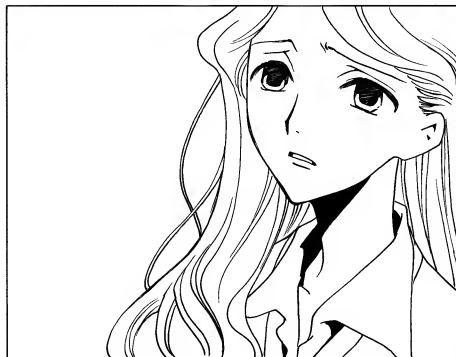
THEY'RE STILL
SMALL, AND
I DON'T WANT
THEM TO FEEL
LONELY JUST
BECAUSE I'M
SELF-INDULGENT...

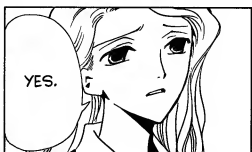
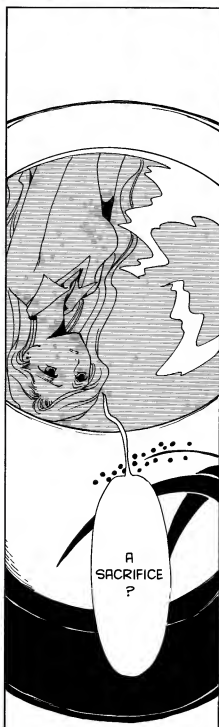


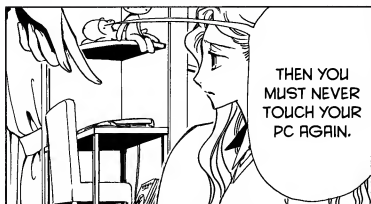
...THEM.

...LOVE...

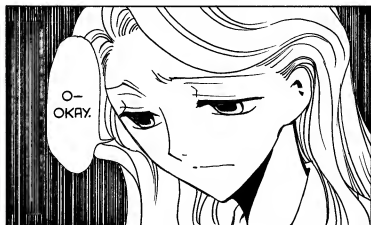
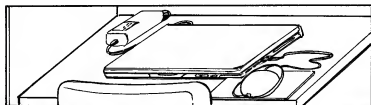
AND I...







THEN YOU
MUST NEVER
TOUCH YOUR
PC AGAIN.



O-
OKAY.



I
DO...

...WANT
TO
QUIT.



YOU
SAID YOU
WANTED
TO QUIT,
NO
MATTER
WHAT IT
TAKES...



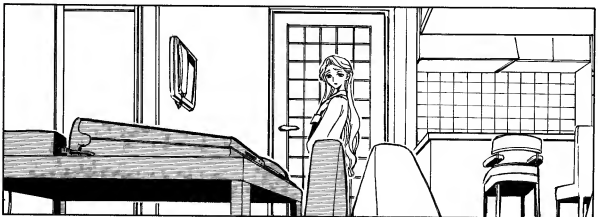
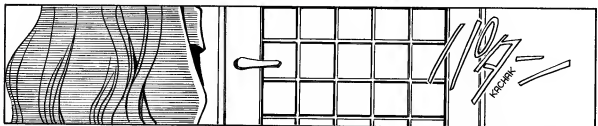
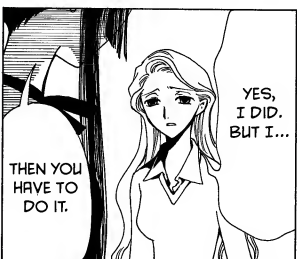
HUH?
HUH?

???

ISN'T
THERE
ANYTHING
ELSE TO
THIS? UMM...

THEN
WE'LL GO
FIND A USE
FOR OUR
TIME...

FINE.





WE'RE
WAITING.

FOR
WHAT?

ぽ
た
ぽ
た
POFF
POFF

IF WE DON'T
HAVE ANY-
THING TO DO,
I WANNA GO
HOME!

WE BARGE INTO
A STRANGER'S
HOUSE, THEN WE
SUDDENLY
LEAVE, ONLY TO
COME TO PLAY
IN A NEARBY
PLAYGROUND!

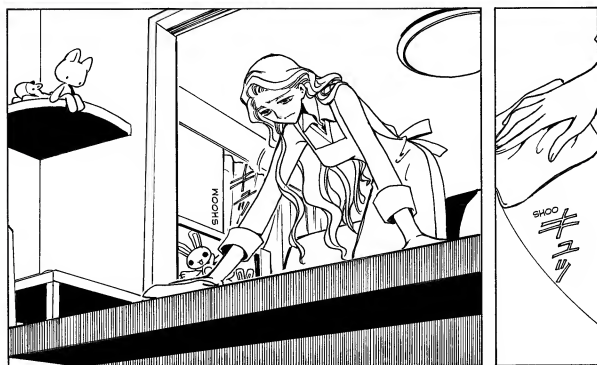
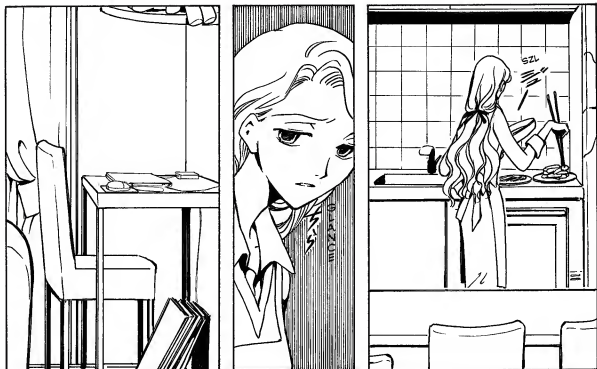
WE DO
HAVE
SOME-
THING
TO DO.

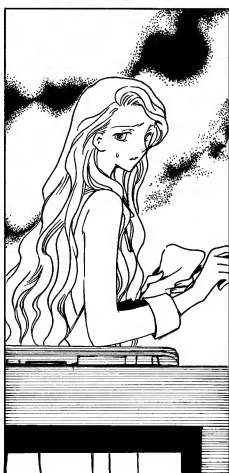
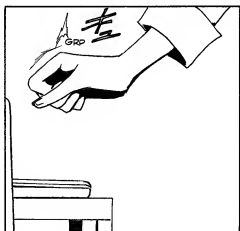
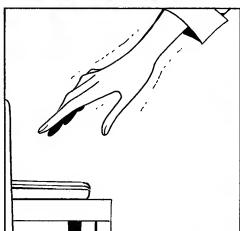
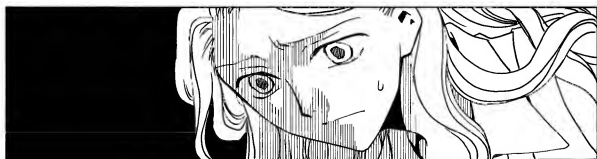


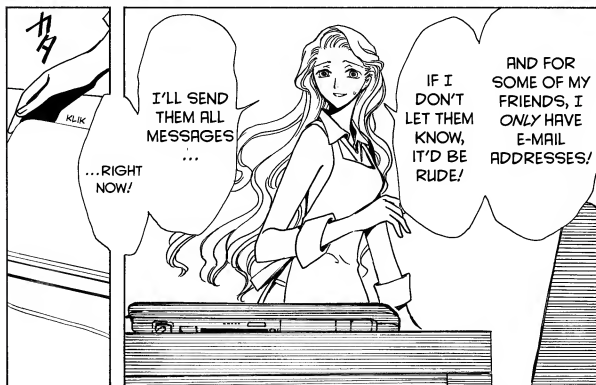
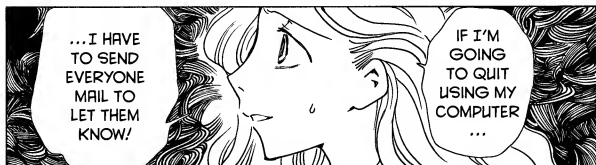
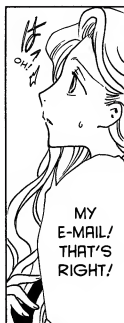
THE
RESULT.

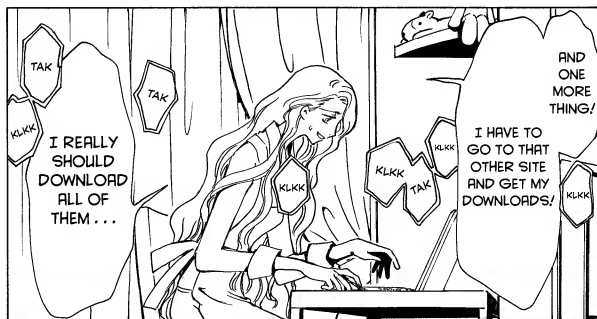
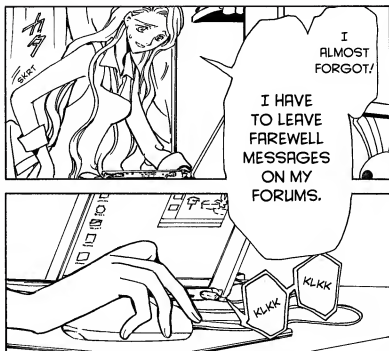


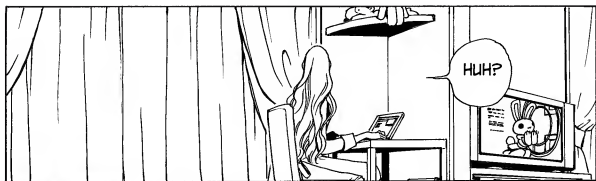


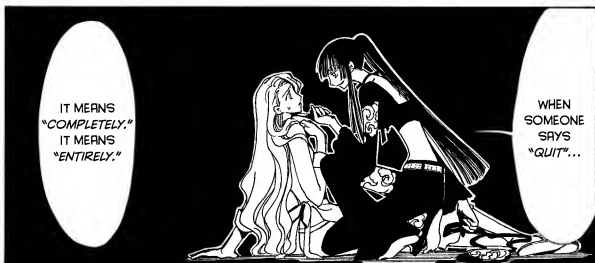
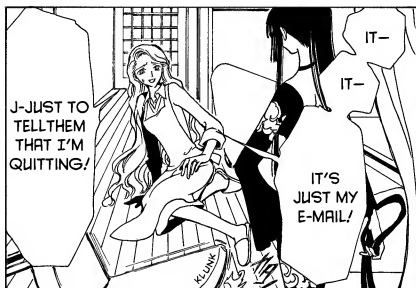


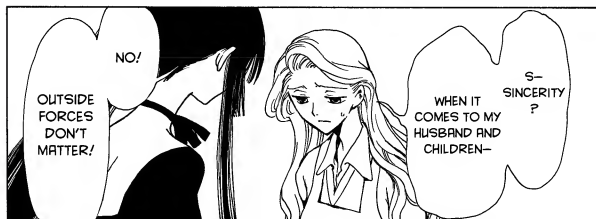
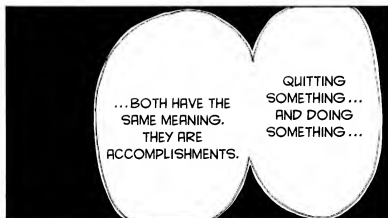
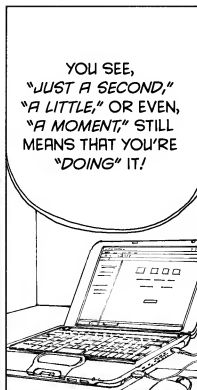








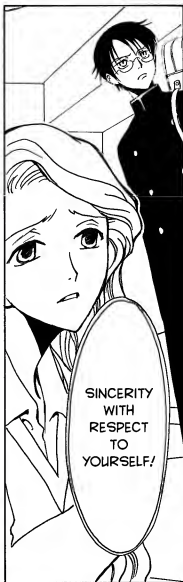




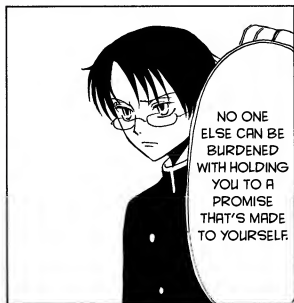


IF YOU ARE
GOING TO DO
SOMETHING
OR NOT DO
SOMETHING,
THAT IS A
PROMISE TO
YOURSELF.

NO
MATTER
WHAT
YOUR
OBJECTIVE
... NO
MATTER
WHO YOU
ARE ...



SINCERITY
WITH
RESPECT
TO
YOURSELF!

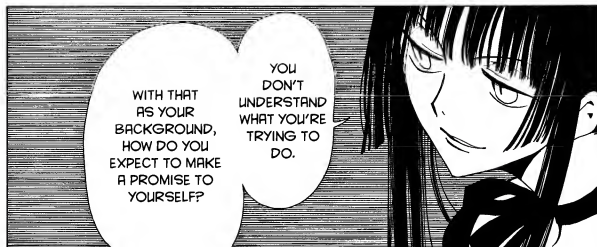
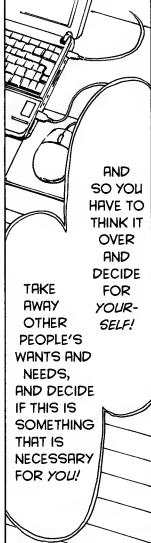
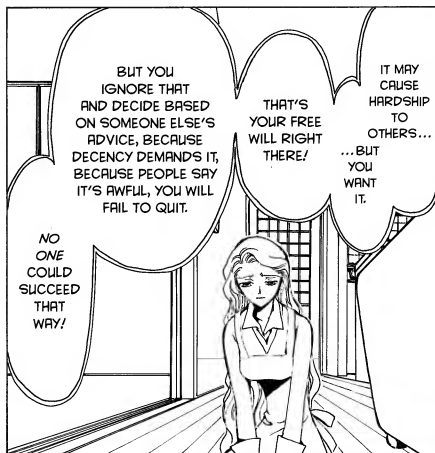


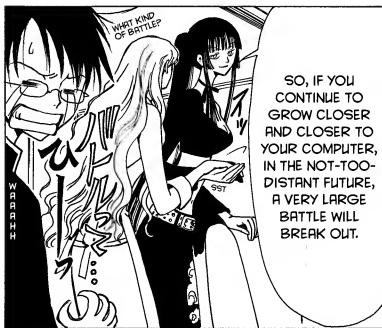
NO ONE
ELSE CAN BE
BURDENED
WITH HOLDING
YOU TO A
PROMISE
THAT'S MADE
TO YOURSELF.



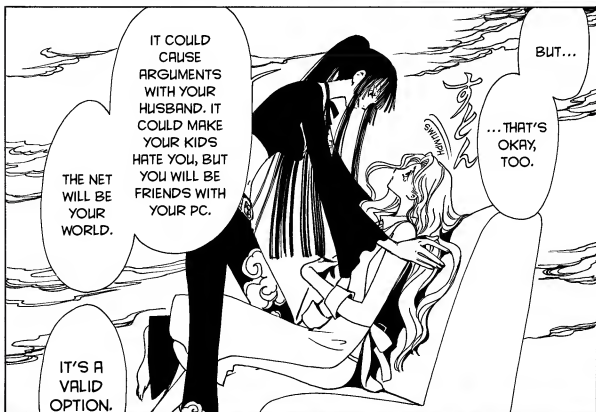
AND THE ONE
WHO KEEPS
THE PROMISE,
OR BREAKS
THE PROMISE,
IS YOU.







SO, IF YOU
CONTINUE TO
GROW CLOSER
AND CLOSER TO
YOUR COMPUTER,
IN THE NOT-TOO-
DISTANT FUTURE,
A VERY LARGE
BATTLE WILL
BREAK OUT.



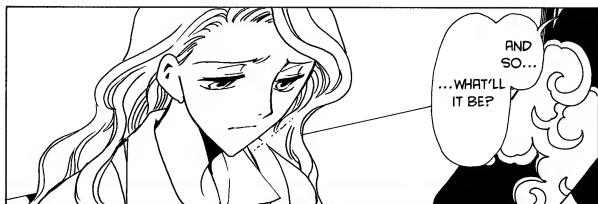
IT'S A
VALID
OPTION.

BUT...

...THAT'S
OKAY,
TOO.









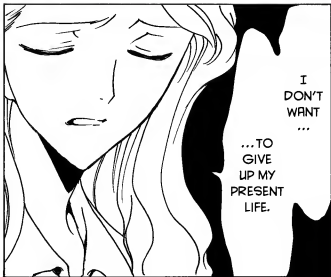
I WANT TO
GIVE UP THE
COMPUTER.



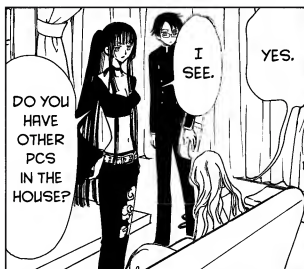
DO YOU
MEAN
THAT?

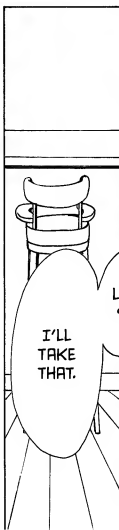
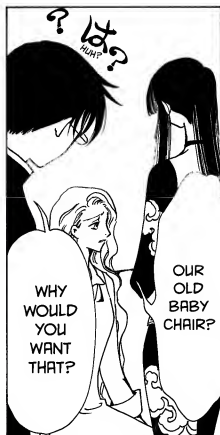
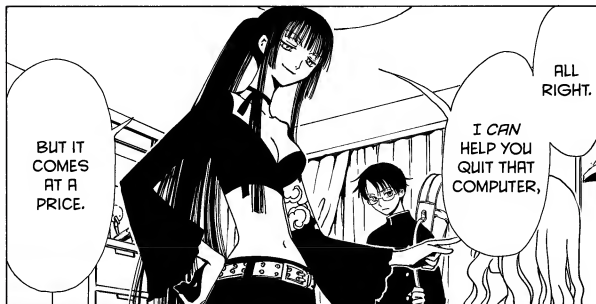
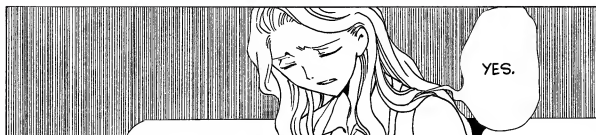


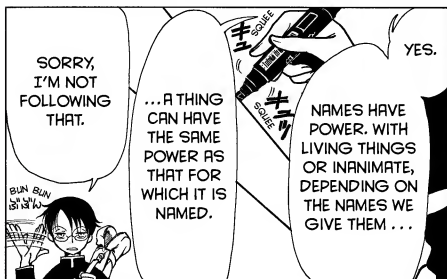
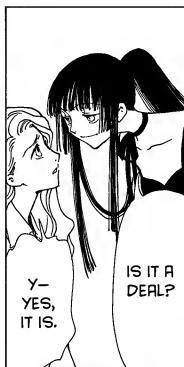
CAN YOU
QUIT BY
YOUR-
SELF?



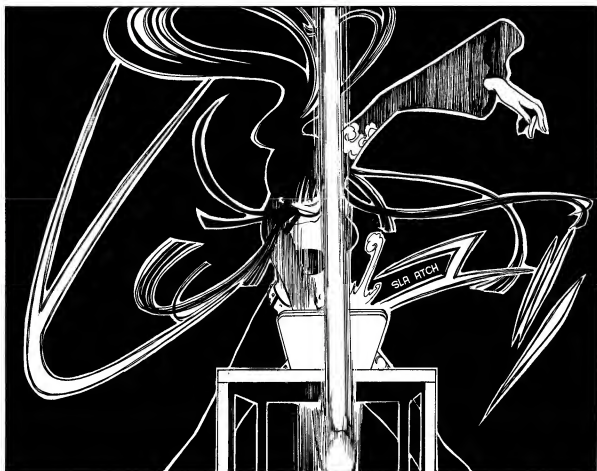
I
DON'T
WANT
...
...TO
GIVE
UP MY
PRESENT
LIFE.

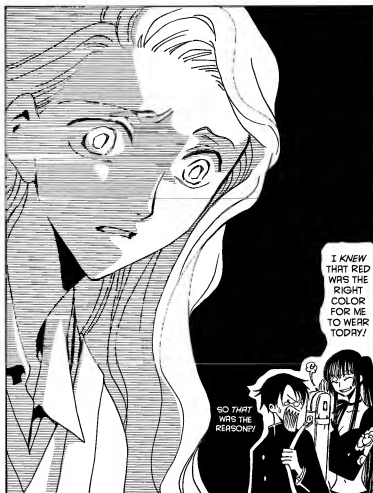
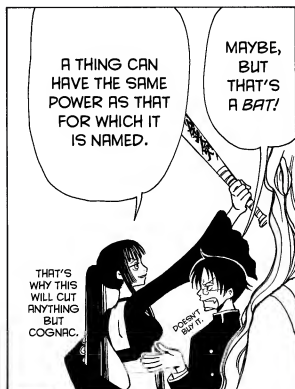


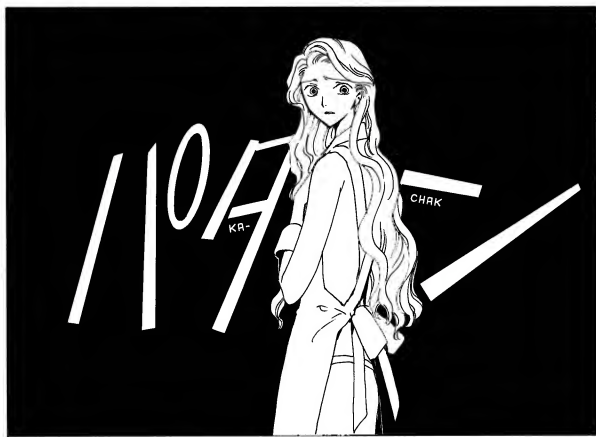
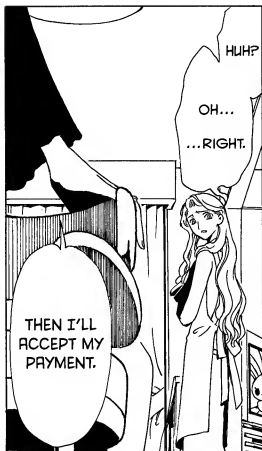


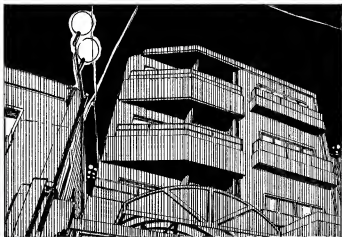


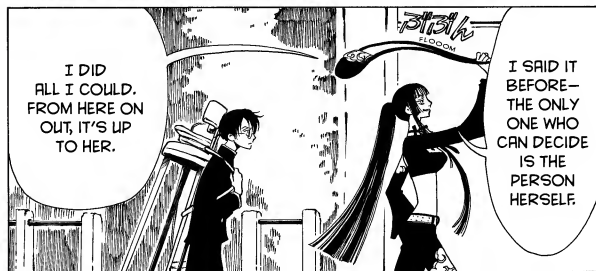
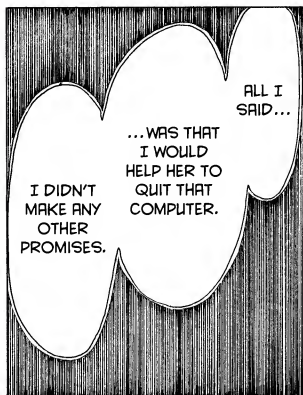












KEEPING
WATCH OVER
AN ADDICT UNTIL
SHE'S CURED IS
A BIT TOO MUCH
SERVICE FOR
THE PAYMENT OF
ONE CHAIR. MY
SHOP'S RATES
AREN'T THAT
REASONABLE.



BUT
IN A CASE
LIKE THIS,
DOESN'T THE
THERAPIST
USUALLY KEEP
WATCH UNTIL
THE PERSON
IS CURED?



WHAT
DID
YOU
SAY?



SOUNDS
TO ME
LIKE DIRTY
DEALING.

MMRFFL!

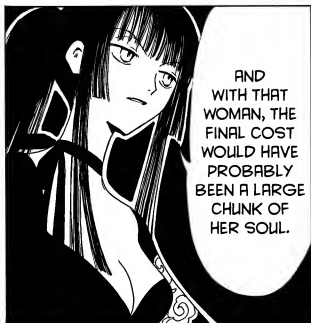


THE MORE INCREDIBLE
A SERVICE I PROVIDE FOR A
CUSTOMER, THE MORE THAT
PERSON IS GOING TO HAVE
TO PAY IN THE END!





HER
SOUL?



AND
WITH THAT
WOMAN, THE
FINAL COST
WOULD HAVE
PROBABLY
BEEN A LARGE
CHUNK OF
HER SOUL.



THERE'S ONLY
SO MUCH THAT PEOPLE
IN OUR INDUSTRY HAVE
THE ABILITY TO DO.

AND...

...NO MATTER
WHAT LENGTHS I
WOULD HAVE HAD
TO GO TO, IF SHE
HERSELF DOESN'T
WANT TO QUIT, IT
WOULD BE FOR
NOTHING.



AND
THAT'S A
SHAME...

...BECAUSE
THERE IS A KIND,
HARD-WORKING
MEDIUM WHO WE
COULD CALL.



YŪKO-
SAN?



I KNEW
HIM SINCE
HE WAS
THIS TALL.

BUT HIS
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
HIS TWIN
SISTER IS
CLOSE.

A GUY.

REALLY
NICE.
KIND OF
YOUNG.



A
MEDIUM?

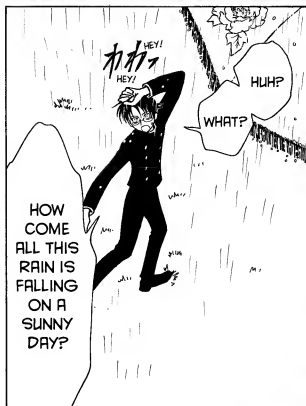


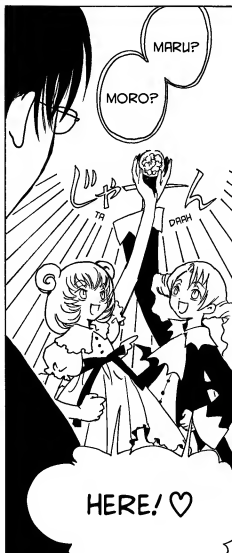
...THERE
ARE A
LOT OF
DEFINITIONS
OF
HAPPINESS,
I'M AFRAID.

I WISH
HIM A
HAPPY
LIFE,
BUT...



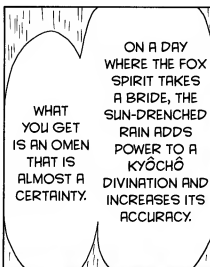






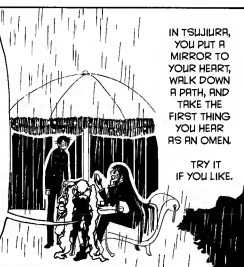


WANT TO
GIVE IT A
TRY?



WHAT
YOU GET
IS AN OMEN
THAT IS
ALMOST A
CERTAINTY.

ON A DAY
WHERE THE FOX
SPIRIT TAKES
A BRIDE, THE
SUN-DRENCHED
RAIN ADDS
POWER TO A
KYÔCHÔ
DIVINATION AND
INCREASES ITS
ACCURACY.



IN TSUJILIRA,
YOU PUT A
MIRROR TO
YOUR HEART,
WALK DOWN
A PATH, AND
TAKE THE
FIRST THING
YOU HEAR
AS AN OMEN.

TRY IT
IF YOU LIKE.



CLOSE
YOUR EYES,
AND OPEN
YOUR EARS.



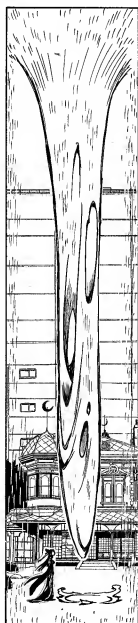
JUST
LISTEN
FOR THE
FIRST
SOUND
YOU
HEAR.

YOU
NEEDN'T
CONCENTRATE
OR EVEN
THINK.

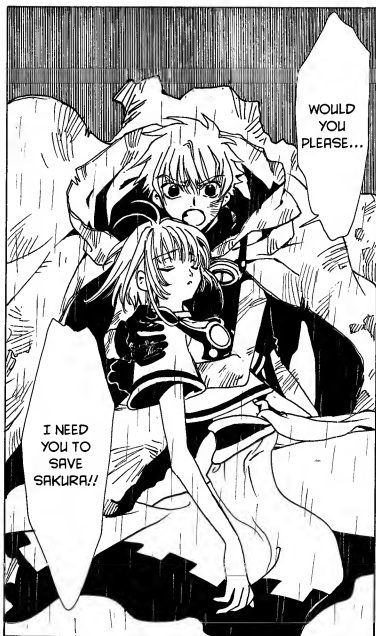












Past Works

CLAMP have created many series. Here is a brief overview of one of them.

Cardcaptor Sakura: Master of the Clow

The first volume of *Cardcaptor Sakura* was released in Japan in 1996, and by the time the series was finished it would number twelve volumes in all. The first story arc, wherein Sakura would capture all of the Clow Cards and be named Master of the Clow, encompassed the first six volumes. In the final six volumes, Sakura discovers that there is another type of magic beyond that represented by the Clow Cards, and she must tap an inner power she didn't know she had in order to combat it. In Japan, there were twelve volumes all called *Cardcaptor Sakura*; in America, the second six have been released as *Cardcaptor Sakura: Master of the Clow*.

Romance abounds in this second arc, with Sakura still trying to manage her serious crush on Yukito, and Li Syaoran and new transfer student Eriol Hirragizawa both showing interest in Sakura. When Eriol turns out to be the reincarnation of the wizard Clow Reed, creator of the cards that bear his name, a series of magical tests begin for Sakura, whose purpose becomes apparent only later in the series.

In fact, romance is what it's all about in the closing chapter of the series. Sakura confesses her love for Yukito, only to have Yukito deny her, because he's in love with her older brother Tōya! You'll see the possibility that this love still exists in *Tsubasa*. Eriol finds his true love, Kaho, and Li Syaoran finally finds the courage to tell Sakura how he really feels.

Clearly, CLAMP felt very close to these characters and wanted to go on telling their stories—which they have done in the pages of *Tsubasa*, and, to a lesser extent, in *xxxHOLiC*!

Artifacts and Miscellany

Over in *Tsubasa* you'll find a lot of characters from a variety of CLAMP manga making an appearance. Here in the first volume of *xxxHOLiC*, you'll find a few artifacts and other appearances that might be a bit hard to understand if you haven't read all of CLAMP's work. Don't read these if you haven't read this volume yet—there's a reason we put them at the end of the book!

Maneki Neko

Maneki Neko is not a CLAMP character, but rather a Japanese symbol of good fortune which is very common in that country. When you buy one of these figurines, the arm is usually moving back and forth in a manner that looks to western eyes as though it is waving. In fact, it is actually beckoning in the Japanese manner—by waving its hand with the palm outward. The legend of Maneki Neko is that a man in a thunderstorm took refuge under a tree, only to see a cat beckoning him into a nearby temple. Following the cat, the man turned to watch the tree struck by lightning. Maneki Neko became the symbol of good luck ever after.



Sakura's Wand

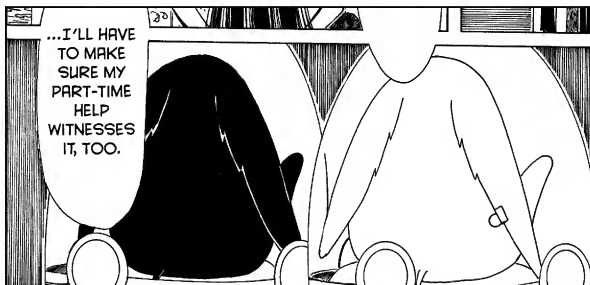
Foreshadowing an event to come in *Tsubasa* Volume 1 and *xxxHOLiC* Volume 2, Watanuki finds an old wand while dusting Yûko's shop. Yûko builds the tension up to the big reveal: It's just a plastic toy wand. But here's the weird thing—Watanuki clearly recognizes it! Is it part of some legend he grew up with? Or does he just watch *Cardcaptor Sakura* on television? It may be revealed in a future volume...or we may never know!



Mokona Modoki

Readers of *Magic Knight Rayearth* will recognize the chubby bunny thing called Mokona. In both the manga and the anime, Mokona exists to guide the Magic Knights through their quests. In the manga, however, his role is a little, shall we say, *expanded*. Mokona is named for Mokona Apapa, a member of CLAMP, and his vocabulary consists entirely of the word "PU!"

As will become clear in *Tsubasa* Volume 1 and future volumes of *xxxHOLiC*, this is definitely not the same Mokona, although there are a lot of similarities.



Translation Notes

For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes to help understand some of the cultural and story references from our translation of *xxxHOLiC*.

Maru-dashi and Moro-dashi

Maru and Moro are very common syllables found in Japanese names.

Watanuki Kimihiro had no reason to assume that their names were the buildup to a joke. But he is absolutely right—they

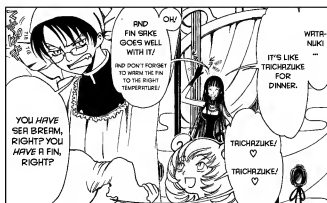
aren't cute names! Both *marudashi* and *morodashi* mean "exposing yourself in public." It's almost as if Yûko has decided to call her two assistants "Streaking" and "Flashing."



Oh, Mirror! Oh, Mirror! Mr. Mirror!

In the 1970s, there was an American television show for very young children called *Romper Room* in which the host looked at the audience through an empty mirror frame and said, "I see Tommy, and Anne, and Carol, and...etc."

Of course, she was listing common names, and those with uncommon names were fated to never be "seen" by the host. Japan's version of *Romper Room* had exactly the same sequence, although the song was a little different (which Maru and Moro sing for us). Do you remember *Romper Room*? No? That's the generation gap for you.



Taichazuke and Hire Sake

Taichazuke is boiled rice poured with tea, and sea bream on top, while hire sake is fin sake.



Eki-Kyabe

A medication for indigestion, commonly used as a cure for hangovers.



Macaroni Hôren-so

A comedy manga that started in 1977 and ran for nine volumes in its original release. It is about a young, poor businessman who lives, along with several odd characters, in a *gejuku*, an old-style apartment building,

by the name of *Hôren-so*. Although it ran in *Shonen Champion* for only a little over two years, it is one of the seminal comedies of Japanese manga.

Zantetsuken

The Sword That Cuts Iron is the legendary sword of equally legendary thief Goemon Ishikawa. If that name seems familiar, then you have some experience with the comedy/action series *Lupin III* by Monkey Punch. *Lupin's* Goemon is supposed to be a direct descendant, and his sword also cuts iron—and much, much more. The famous phrase, "Once again, I cut a worthless object" (page 156) is also taken from Goemon's character.



The Medium

She's talking about Subaru Sumeragi of *X (X/1999)* and *Tokyo Babylon*. The direct descendant of the nation's highest family of mediums, Subaru was one of a pair of fraternal twins—the other being his irrepressible sister Hokuto.

Kyôchô

The word is made up of the characters for "mirror" and "divination."



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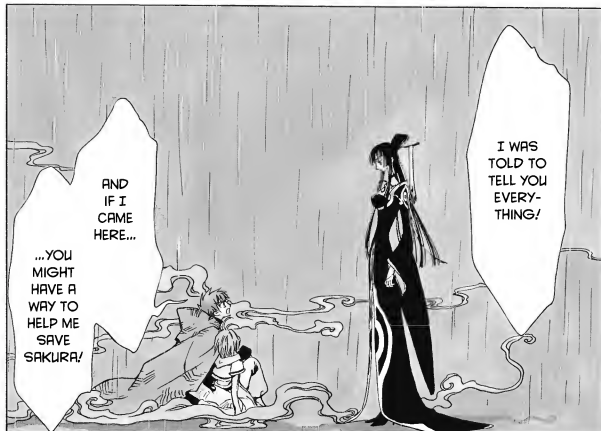
YOU'RE
NOT THE
SAME ONES,
BUT YOU ARE
THE SAME OF
A DIFFERENT
WORLD.



I'VE
BEEN
WAITING
...

...FOR
THE
TWO
OF
YOU.





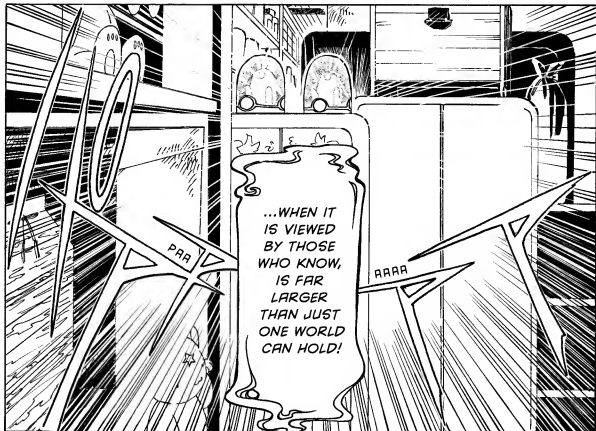
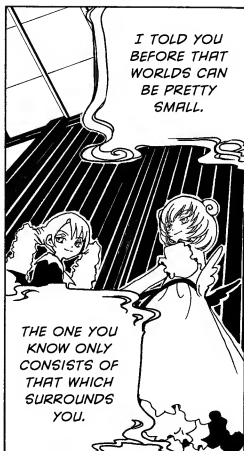


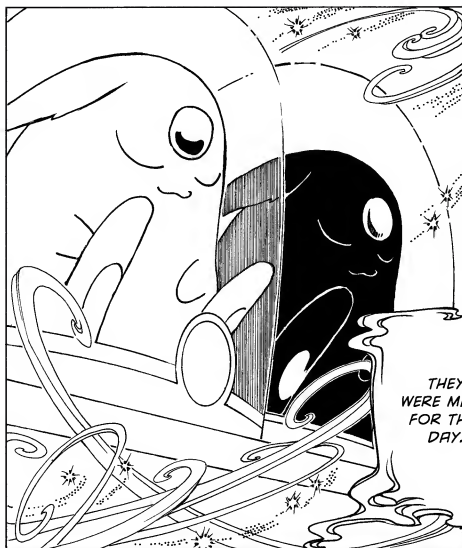












I-
I GOTTA
SAY THAT
I'M PRETTY
IMPRESSED
WITH THESE
THINGS.



THEY
WERE MADE
FOR THIS
DAY.

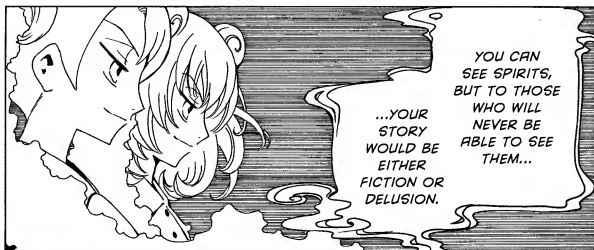
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT IS MEANT
BY INFINITE
CAUSALITIES?

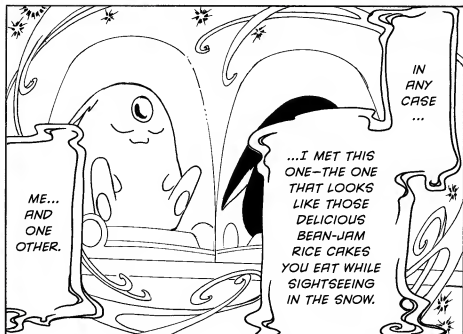
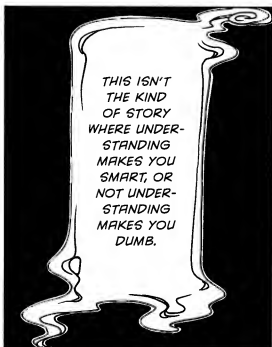
INFINITE.
IT MEANS THERE
ARE COUNTLESS
UNIVERSES OUT
THERE.



UM...

INTI-
MATE...







HE GOES
BY THE
NAME OF
CLOW
REED.



THAT
TRICKY
MAGICIAN
IN GLASSES
WHO MADE
THE REAL
VERSION
OF THAT
TOY.

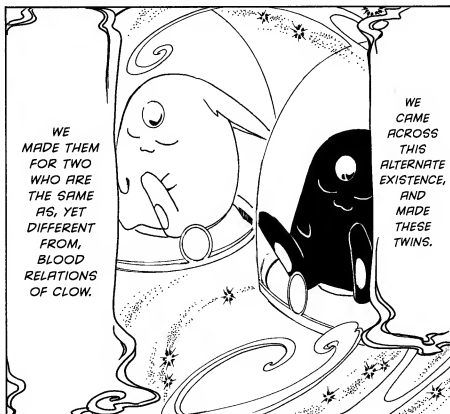


BUT
LET'S
PUT ALL
OF THAT
ASIDE!

THERE'S A LOT
OF FATE, OR
MAYBE I SHOULD
SAY KARMA,
CONNECTED WITH
MR. GLASSES...



OKAY.
WHAT DOES
"SAME, YET
DIFFERENT"
MEAN?



WE
MADE THEM
FOR TWO
WHO ARE
THE SAME
AS, YET
DIFFERENT
FROM,
BLOOD
RELATIONS
OF CLOW.

WE
CAME
ACROSS
THIS
ALTERNATE
EXISTENCE,
AND
MADE
THESE
TWIN.



THE TWO
THAT ARE
IN MY
GARDEN...



THEY CAME
FROM A
DIFFERENT
WORLD AND
ARE LIVING
DIFFERENT
LIVES...



BUT
...

THEY
EXIST
IN
OTHER
WORLDS
TOO.



IN THE
WORLD
WE LIVE
IN...

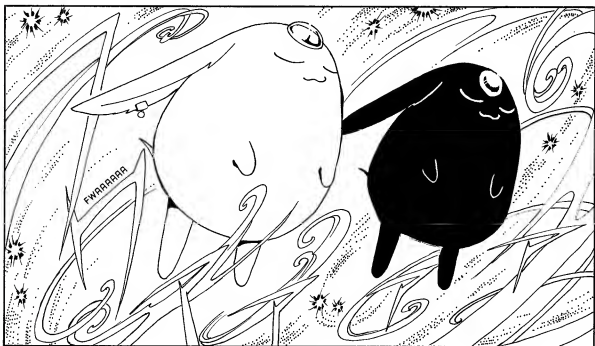
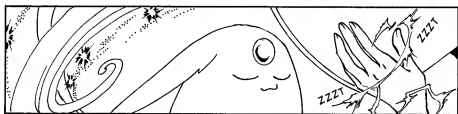
... SAKURA-
CHAN AND
SYAORAN-
KUN-
THE TWO
YOU SAW-
EXIST.

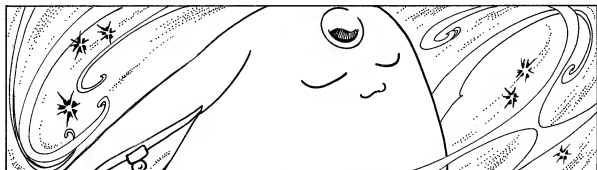
THEY
ARE
CLOW'S
BLOOD
RELA-
TIONS.



...BUT
THEY
SHARE
THE SAME
SOULS.



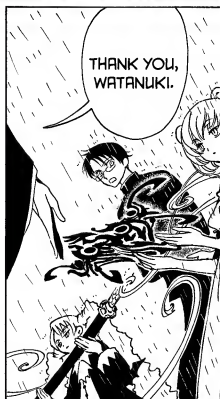




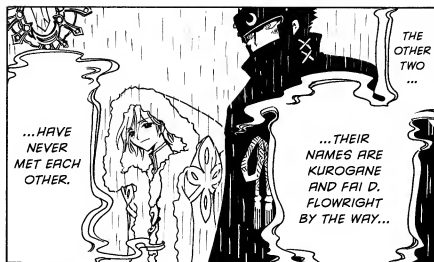












...HAVE
NEVER
MET EACH
OTHER.

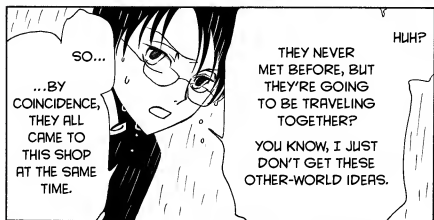
...THEIR
NAMES ARE
KUROGANE
AND FAI D.
FLOWRIGHT
BY THE WAY...

THE
OTHER
TWO
...



NO.

THE ONLY TWO
WHO CAME
FROM THE SAME
WORLD ARE
SYAORAN-KUN
AND
SAKURA-CHAN.



SO...

...BY
COINCIDENCE,
THEY ALL
CAME TO
THIS SHOP
AT THE SAME
TIME.

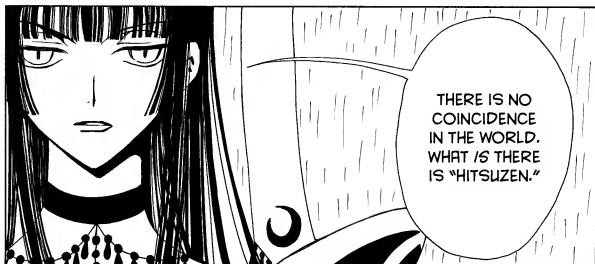
HUHP?

THEY NEVER
MET BEFORE, BUT
THEY'RE GOING
TO BE TRAVELING
TOGETHER?

YOU KNOW, I JUST
DON'T GET THESE
OTHER-WORLD IDEAS.



I'VE
SAID THIS
TO YOU
BEFORE...

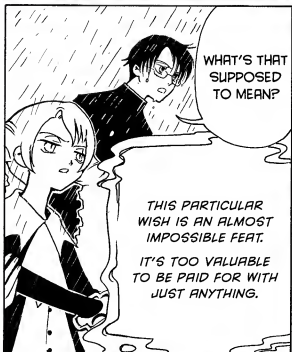


THERE IS NO
COINCIDENCE
IN THE WORLD.
WHAT IS THERE
IS "HITSUZEN."



SYAORAN ...

...YOUR PRICE IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP.



WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

THIS PARTICULAR WISH IS AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FEAT. IT'S TOO VALUABLE TO BE PAID FOR WITH JUST ANYTHING.



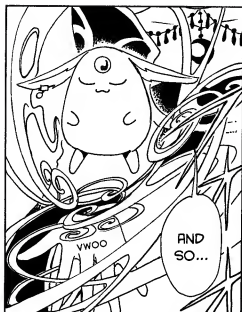
AND WHAT BROUGHT YOU TOGETHER ...

...WAS ALSO "HITSUZEN."



SO THE PRICE FOR EACH OF THEM IS THAT WHICH EACH PRIZES THE MOST.





AND
SO...

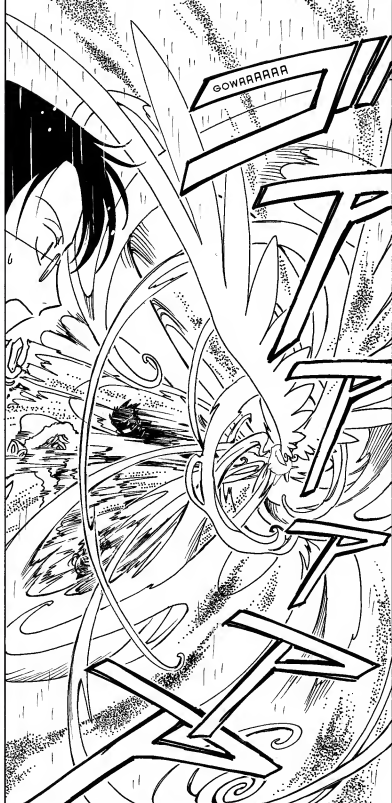


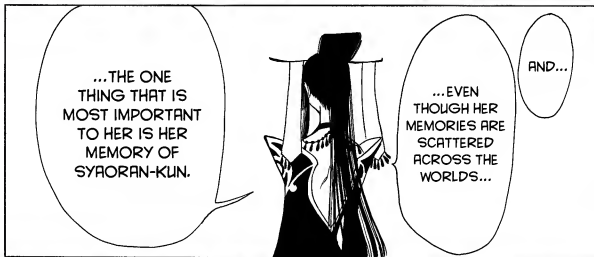
NO MATTER
WHAT A PERSON
WANTS TO
ATTEMPT, THOSE
ARE NEEDED.
AND IT SEEMS
THAT YOU ARE
WELL PROVIDED
WITH BOTH.

SINCERITY
AND
DETERMINA-
TION...



YOU
MAY
GO!

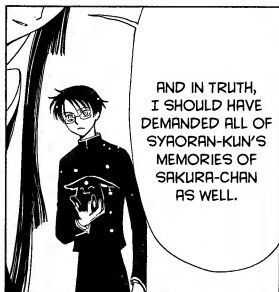






BUT...

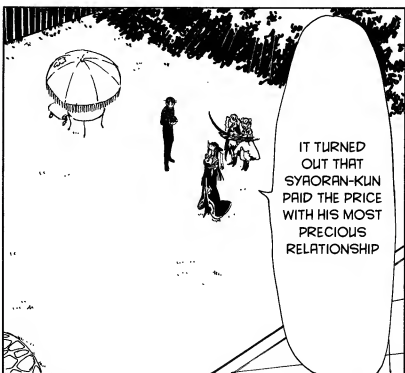
...THIS IS
ENOUGH.



AND IN TRUTH,
I SHOULD HAVE
DEMANDED ALL OF
SYAORAN-KUN'S
MEMORIES OF
SAKURA-CHAN
AS WELL.



TO HAVE
THE PERSON
MOST
IMPORTANT
TO YOU
FORGET YOU
COMPLETELY...



IT TURNED
OUT THAT
SYAORAN-KUN
PAID THE PRICE
WITH HIS MOST
PRECIOUS
RELATIONSHIP



YES.

THAT IS
THE PRICE
SHE PAYS.

SHE IS THE
PERSON
FOR WHOM
THE HELP OF
MOKONA
MODOKI IS
THE MOST
URGENT.

AND SO,
THE COST
TO HER
IS THE
GREATEST.



I LET THEM
OFF EASY.
I'M JUST A
SOFTIE.



YOU
UNDERSTAND
THE PAIN AND
WEIGHT OF WHAT
YOU'RE GIVING
UP, AND YET
YOU ARE STILL
WILLING. THIS
IS WHAT YOU
LIVE FOR.

YOU CAN
GIVE UP YOUR
PRESENT
WORLD.

YOU CAN
THROW
OUT YOUR
COMFORT-
ABLE LIFE
AND CHASE
A NEW WAY.

YOU
SAID YOUR-
SELF THAT TO
ACCOMPLISH
SOMETHING,
THE TWO
NECESSARY
ITEMS ARE
SINCERITY
AND ACTION.

I THINK
THEY'LL
BE FINE.



SO I'M
SURE HE WILL
SEE WHAT
HE STARTS
THROUGH
TO THE END.

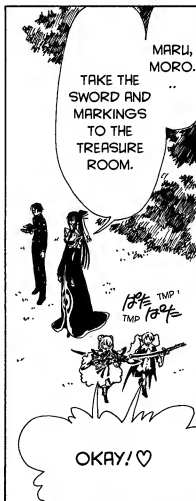
THAT GIRL
WILL BE ALL
RIGHT, TOO.

BUT I COULD
SEE IN HIS FACE
THAT HE IS FULLY
PREPARED.

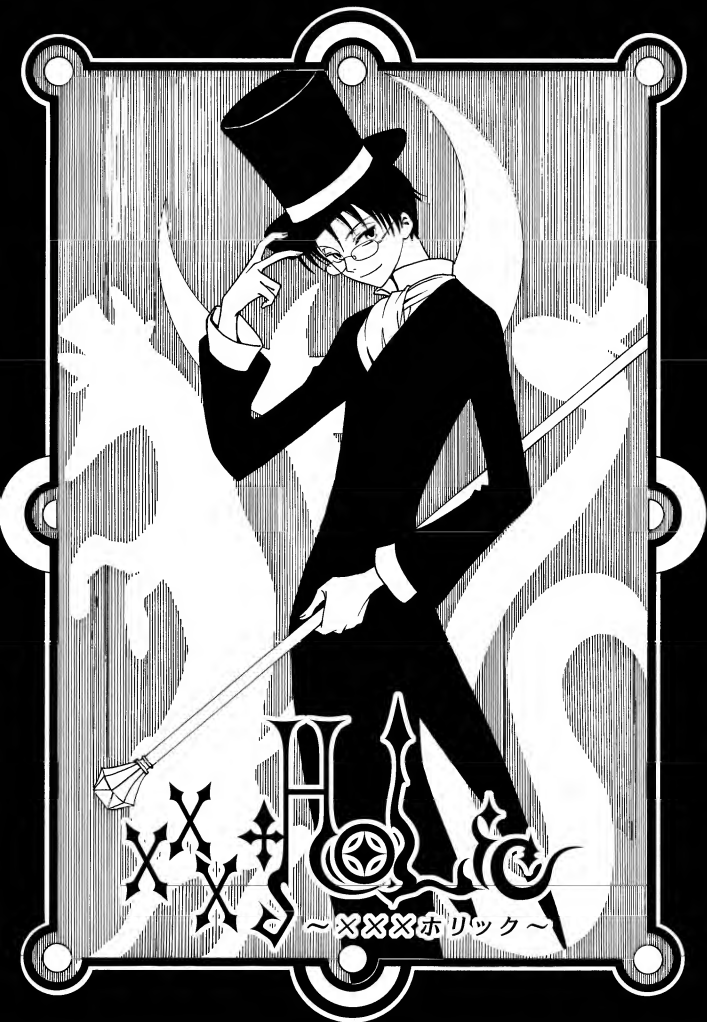
I CAN FEEL HIS
SINCERITY AND HIS
WILLINGNESS TO
TAKE ACTION.

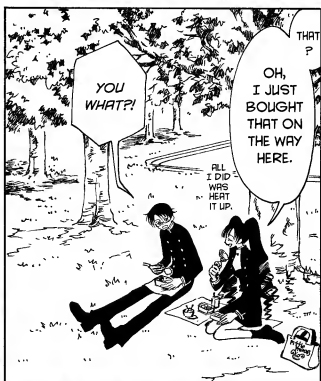
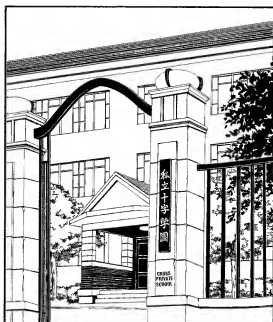
I'VE ONLY
JUST MET
SYAORAN-
KUN.

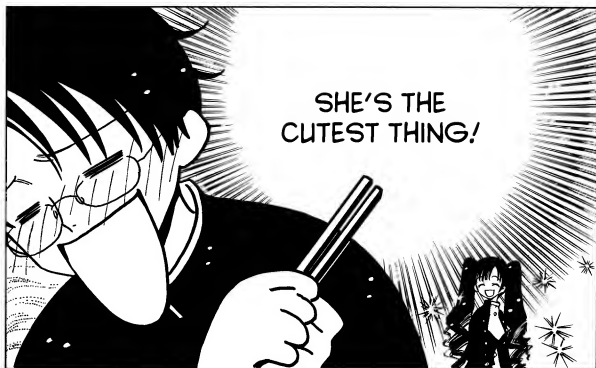


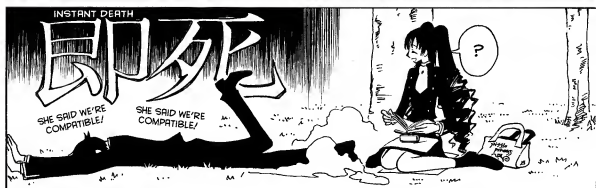
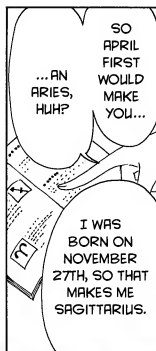


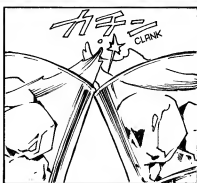




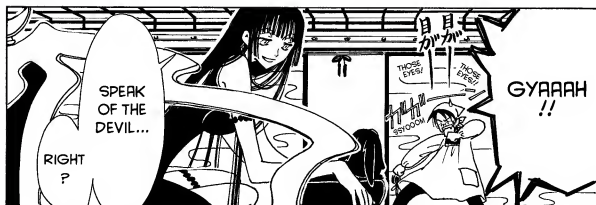














WHY GIVE
THEM THAT
KIND OF
ABILITY?



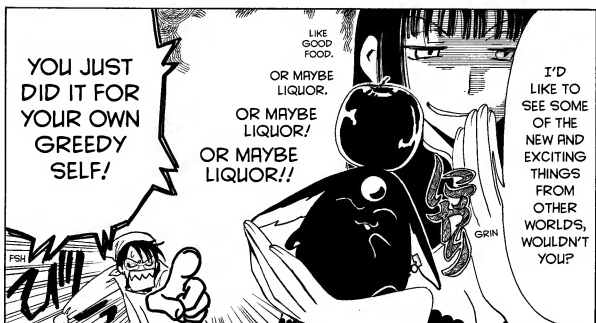
WE
CAN USE
THEM TO
COMMUNI-
CATE AS IF
THROUGH
A PHONE,
BUT THEY
CAN ALSO
TRANSFER
MATTER.



YES.

THEY
PROMISED
THAT IF THEY
FOUND
ANYTHING
INTERESTING,
THEY'D SEND
IT HERE.

I DID
MENTION THAT
COMMUNICA-
TION WAS THE
FUNCTION OF
THE BLACK
MOKONA.



YOU JUST
DID IT FOR
YOUR OWN
GREEDY
SELF!

LIKE
GOOD
FOOD.

OR MAYBE
LIQUOR.

OR MAYBE
LIQUOR!

OR MAYBE
LIQUOR!!

I'D
LIKE TO
SEE SOME
OF THE
NEW AND
EXCITING
THINGS
FROM
OTHER
WORLDS,
WOULDN'T
YOU?

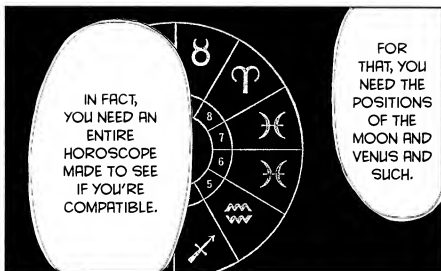
GRIN



WATANUKI,
USE THIS TO MAKE
SOME KIND OF
DESSERT.

WHAT
PERFECT
TIMING!



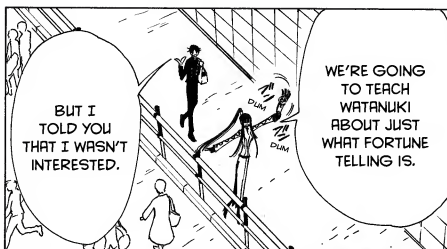












BUT I
TOLD YOU
THAT I WASN'T
INTERESTED.

WE'RE GOING
TO TEACH
WATANUKI
ABOUT JUST
WHAT FORTUNE
TELLING IS.

THEN
...



I IMAGINE
AFTERWARD,
YOU COULD
TEACH HER
A THING
OR TWO.

IF YOU
KNEW
SOMETHING
ABOUT IT,
I'LL BET
YOU COULD
CONVERSE
WITH
HIMAWARI-
CHAN FOR
HOURS!



YOU'RE
NOT,
BUT
CERTAIN
GIRLS
ARE...

...IN
HORO-
SCOPES.



...WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?



THAT'S
THE SMILE
I WANT
TO SEE,
WATANUKI!

I'M
READY
TO
LEARN!



A FORTUNE
TELLER
TELLING HER
OWN FUTURE
IS ONE OF
THE TABOOS.

I NEVER
FIGURED YOU
WOULD NEED
ANYONE ELSE
TO DO YOUR
FORTUNE.

IF A
VISION
STRIKES
YOU, YOU
CAN'T HELP
THAT, BUT...



THERE ARE
VISIONS
THAT JUST
STRIKE YOU?

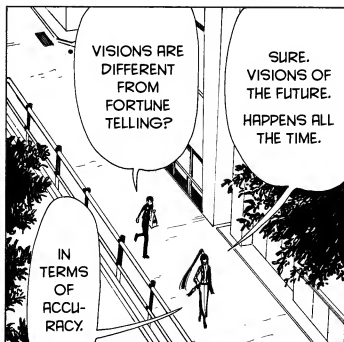


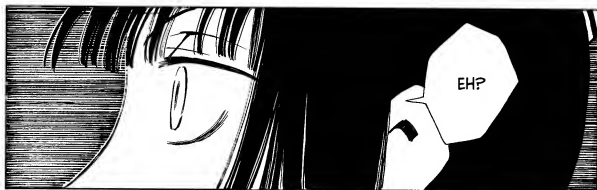
YOU
USE,
YŪKO-
SAN?

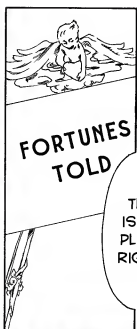
YOU
LOOK
SUR-
PRISED.

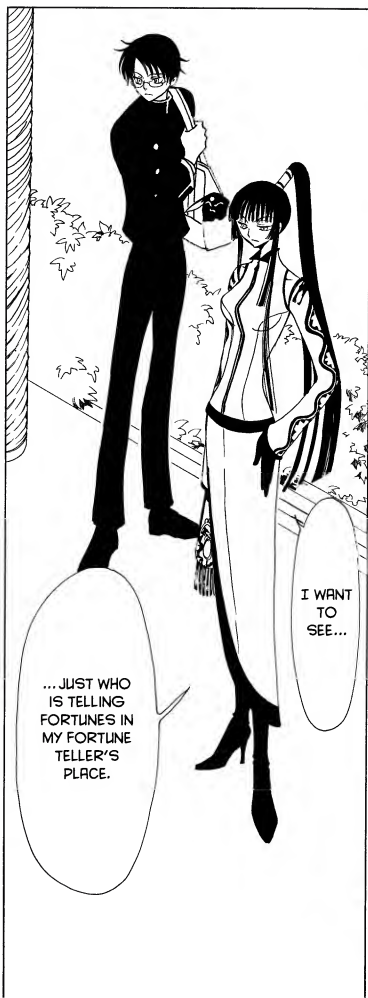


TO THE
SHOP OF A
FORTUNE
TELLER THAT
I USE.









...JUST WHO
IS TELLING
FORTUNES IN
MY FORTUNE
TELLER'S
PLACE.

I WANT
TO
SEE...



OOOKAY.
THEN
LET'S GO
HOME.

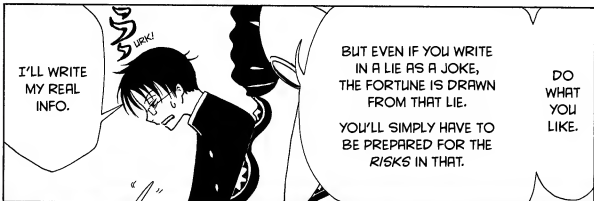
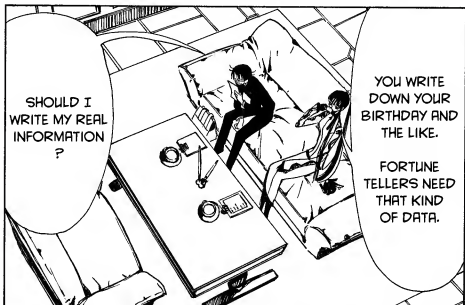
WE'LL
GO IN.

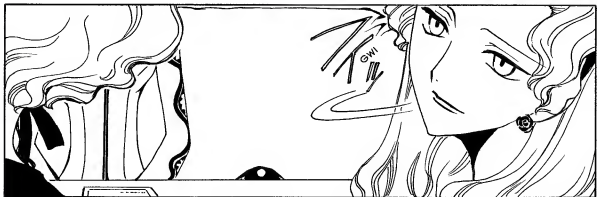
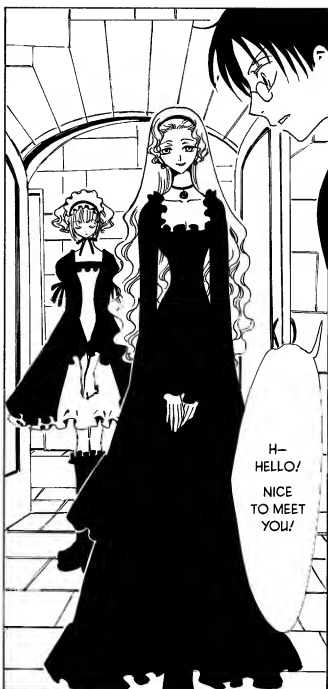
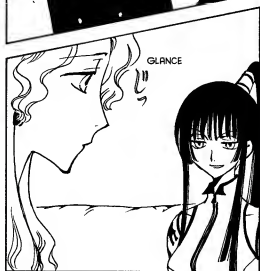
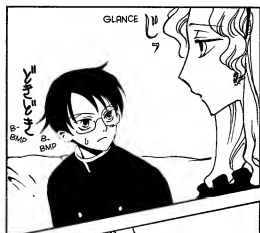


HUH?

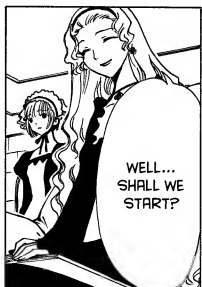
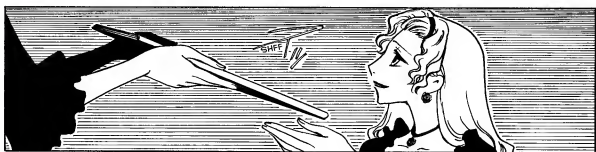
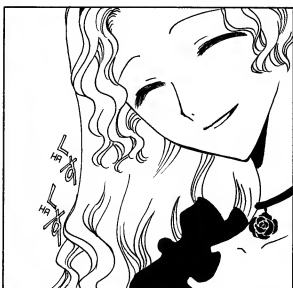
KACHAK

BUT
IF IT'S
"WRONG"
...

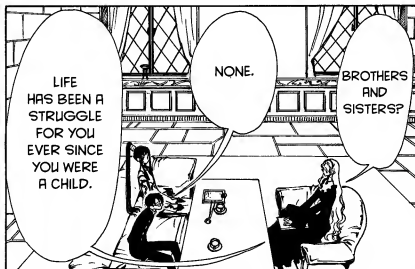
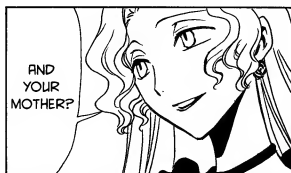


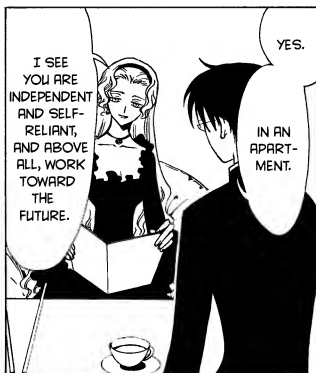


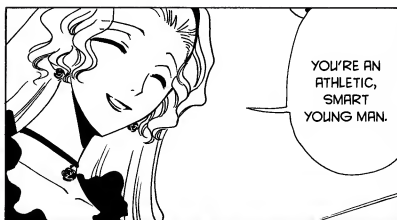


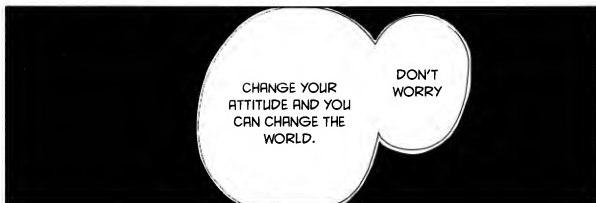














WHAT?



O-O-KAY!



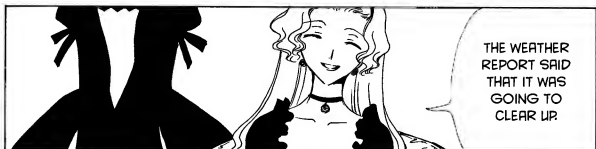
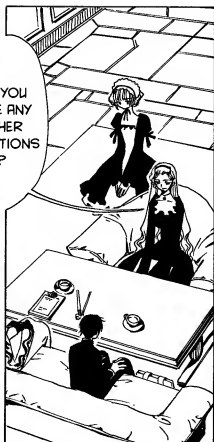
YOU HAVE
TO GATHER
YOUR
COURAGE
AND
FACE IT.

I'M SURE IT
MUST BE
A TERRIBLE
THING, BUT
NOTHING
WILL CHANGE
BY JUST
STANDING
STILL.



IF YOUR
OUTLOOK IS
DARK, THEN
EVERYTHING IN
THE WORLD
WILL COME OUT
TERRIBLE.

BUT IF YOU
ARE OPTIMISTIC
AND TRY YOUR
BEST, THE WHOLE
WORLD CAN
SEEM TO CHANGE
FOR YOU.







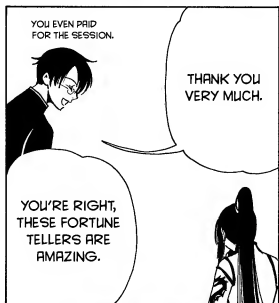
HELLO?
HELLO?
HOW ARE
THINGS
THERE?
THAT
APPLE
WAS
REALLY
GREAT!



WAIT A
SEC!

SHE'D
NEVER
SEEN ME
BEFORE...

...AND SHE
AUTOMATICALLY
ASKED ABOUT
MY DEAD FATHER.



YOU EVEN PAID
FOR THE SESSION.

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH.

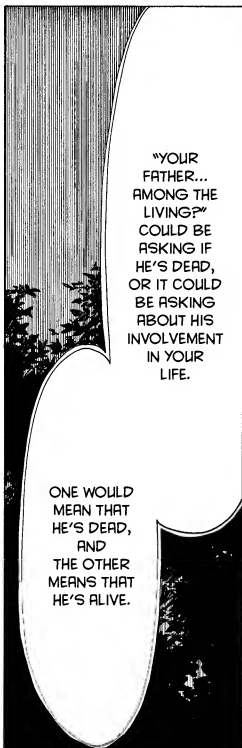
YOU'RE RIGHT,
THESE FORTUNE
TELLERS ARE
AMAZING.

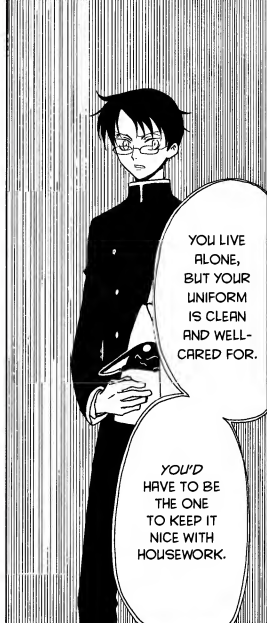


WHAT'S
"AMAZING"
ABOUT IT?



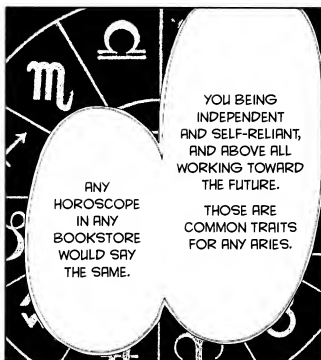
BUT HER
QUESTION
...
...COULD HAVE
BEEN TAKEN
SEVERAL WAYS.





YOU LIVE
ALONE,
BUT YOUR
UNIFORM
IS CLEAN
AND WELL-
CARED FOR.

YOU'D
HAVE TO BE
THE ONE
TO KEEP IT
NICE WITH
HOUSEWORK.



ANY
HOROSCOPE
IN ANY
BOOKSTORE
WOULD SAY
THE SAME.

YOU BEING
INDEPENDENT
AND SELF-RELIANT,
AND ABOVE ALL
WORKING TOWARD
THE FUTURE.

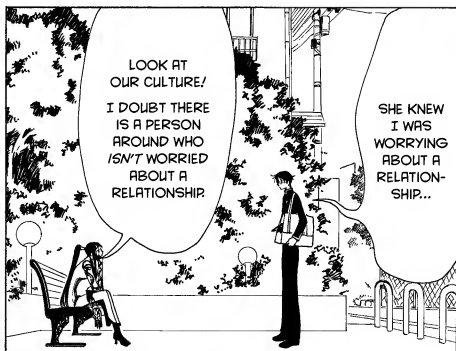
THOSE ARE
COMMON TRAITS
FOR ANY ARIES.



THE THING
ABOUT BEING
GOOD AT
HOUSEWORK...



.....



LOOK AT
OUR CULTURE!

I DOUBT THERE
IS A PERSON
AROUND WHO
ISN'T WORRIED
ABOUT A
RELATIONSHIP.

SHE KNEW
I WAS
WORRYING
ABOUT A
RELATION-
SHIP..



.....
YES.



AND
WHEN
SHE
ASKED
IF YOU
HAD
OTHER
WORRIES
...

WATANUKI
...

...YOU WERE
THINKING
ABOUT HOW
YOU SEE
SPIRITS,
WEREN'T
YOU?



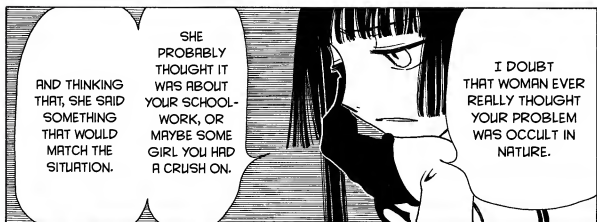
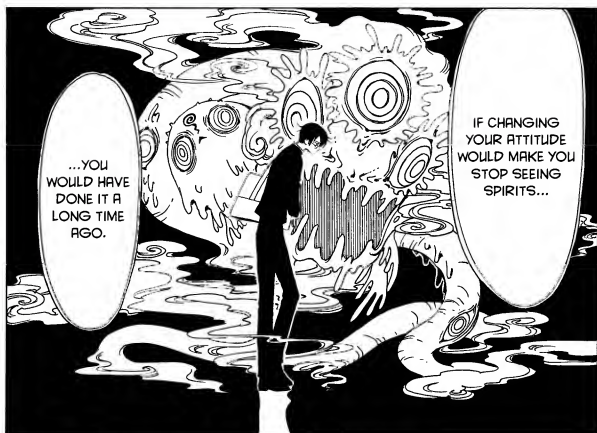
CHANGE
YOUR
ATTITUDE,
AND...

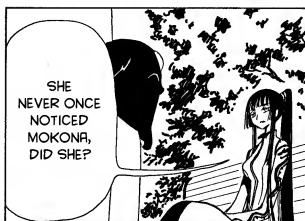
DO YOU
REMEMBER
THE ADVICE
SHE GAVE
YOU?

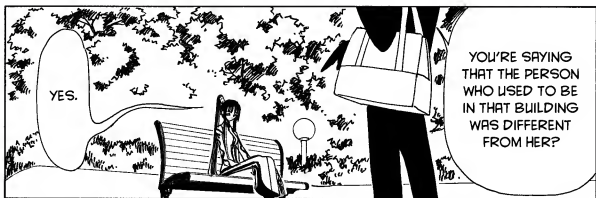


EVEN
APPROACHING
YOUR RELATION-
SHIP WITH
SINCERITY-
THAT'S A
PRETTY BASIC
APPROACH TO
INTERPERSONAL
RELATIONS.

IT'S NOTHING
SPECIAL AS
ADVICE GOES.











FOLD IT IN
HALF.



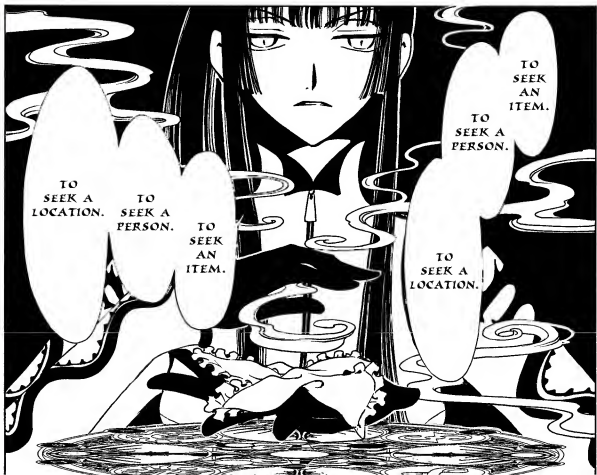
FSSS



NOW
FOLD IT
AGAIN.



AH!
OKAY.



TO
SEEK A
LOCATION.

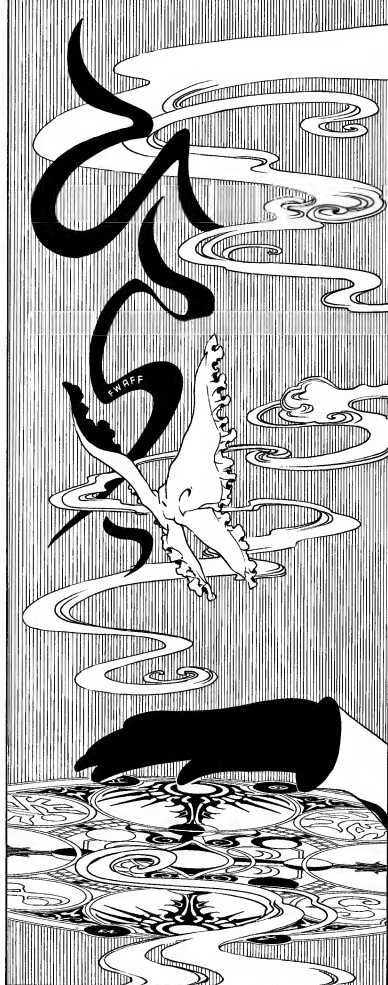
TO
SEEK A
PERSON.

TO
SEEK
AN
ITEM.

TO
SEEK A
PERSON.

TO
SEEK
AN
ITEM.

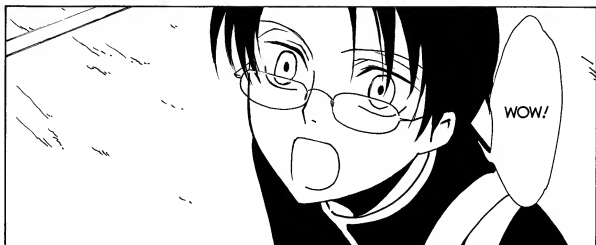
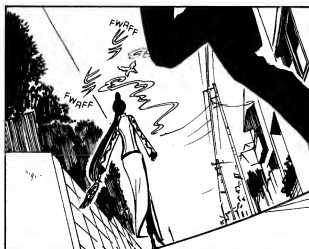
TO
SEEK A
LOCATION.

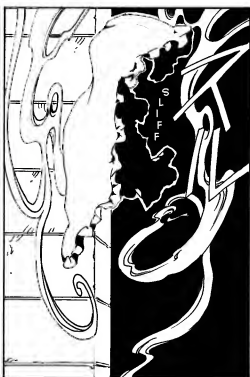
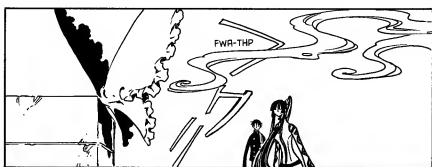
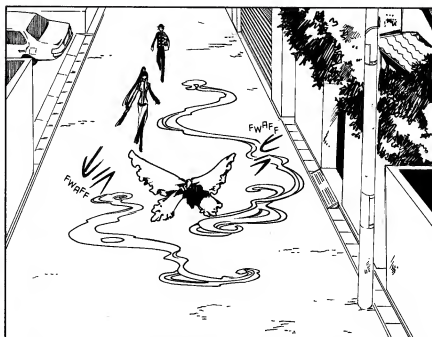


GUIDE
MY
SEARCH
...

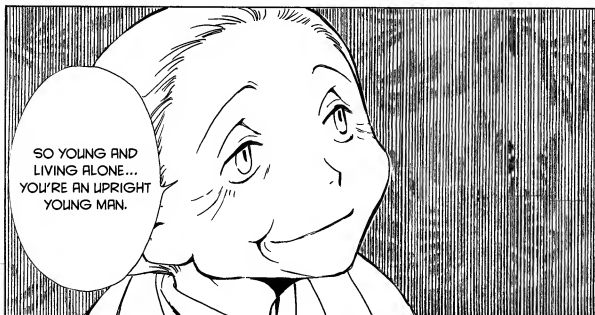
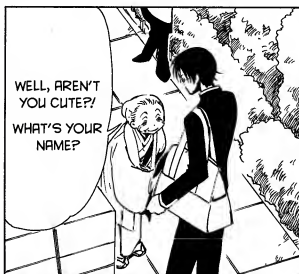
...THAT
WHICH
FLIES...

...TO THE
PERSON
I SEEK.

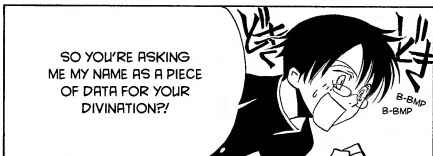


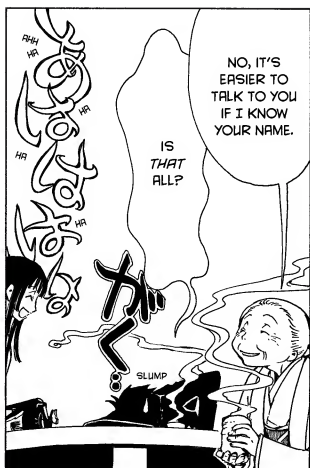


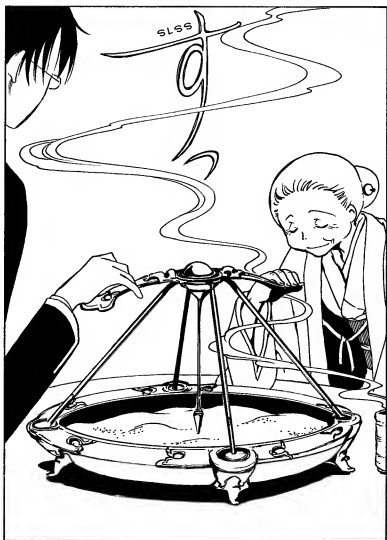


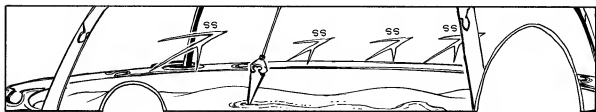


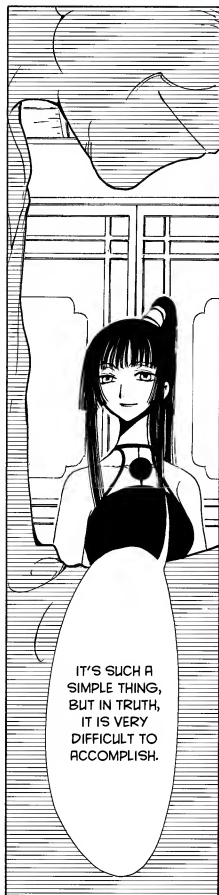












IT'S SUCH A
SIMPLE THING,
BUT IN TRUTH,
IT IS VERY
DIFFICULT TO
ACCOMPLISH.



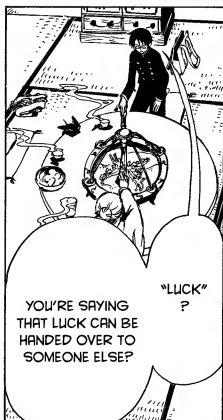
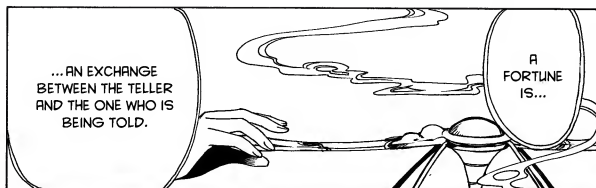
A TRUE
FORTUNE
TELLER
KNOWS
EXACTLY
WHAT YOU
WANT
FORETOLD.

AND
THAT IS THE
FORTUNE
THAT WILL
BE TOLD.

YOU
WON'T
BE DISAP-
POINTED.

WHAT YOU
NEED TO
HEAR, THAT
IS WHAT YOU
WILL HEAR.







DEPEND-
ING ON THE
RESULTS
OF THE
DIVINATION.

BUT
WHEN ONE
ACCEPTS A
SOUL, THE
FORTUNE
TELLER'S
SOUL IS
ALSO IN
JEOPARDY.

SOUL?!

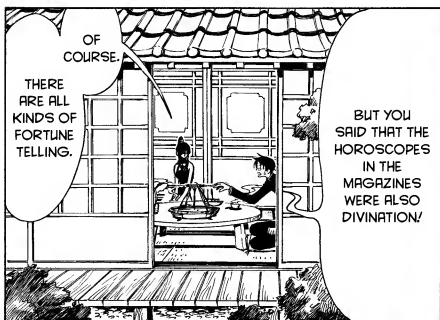


YES.

THEY
ARE
QUITE
SIMILAR.

GRIN

WAIT,
ISN'T THAT A
LOT LIKE THE
SYSTEM IN
YOUR STORE,
YÜKO-SAN?



OF
COURSE.

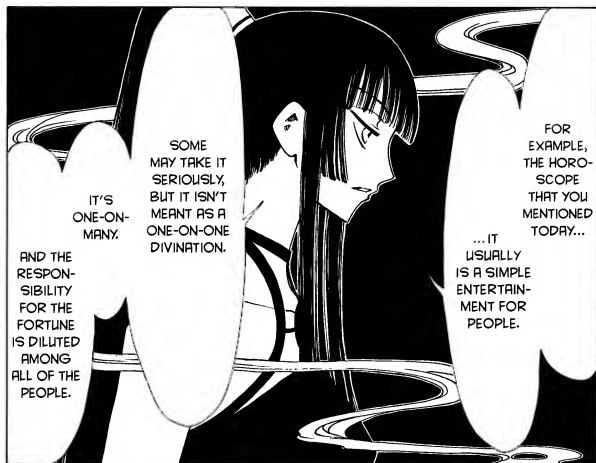
THERE
ARE ALL
KINDS OF
FORTUNE
TELLING.

BUT YOU
SAID THAT THE
HOROSCOPES
IN THE
MAGAZINES
WERE ALSO
DIVINATION!



YES,
IT CAN.

AND, OF
COURSE...
...A
PERSON'S
SOUL.



IT'S
ONE-ON-
MANY.

AND THE RESPON-
SIBILITY
FOR THE
FORTUNE
IS DILUTED
AMONG
ALL OF THE
PEOPLE.

SOME
MAY TAKE IT
SERIOUSLY,
BUT IT ISN'T
MEANT AS A
ONE-ON-ONE
DIVINATION.

FOR
EXAMPLE,
THE HORO-
SCOPE
THAT YOU
MENTIONED
TODAY...

...IT
USUALLY
IS A SIMPLE
ENTERTAIN-
MENT FOR
PEOPLE.



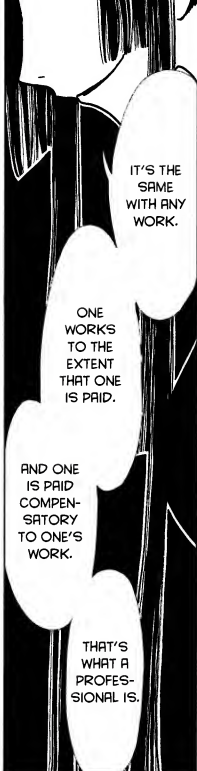
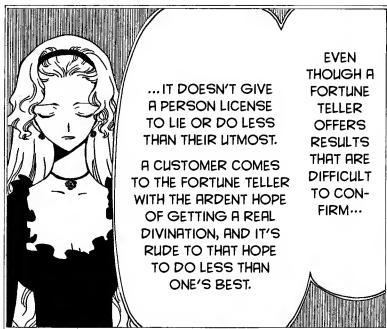
ONE
MUST
DO AS
MUCH
AS ONE
CAN.

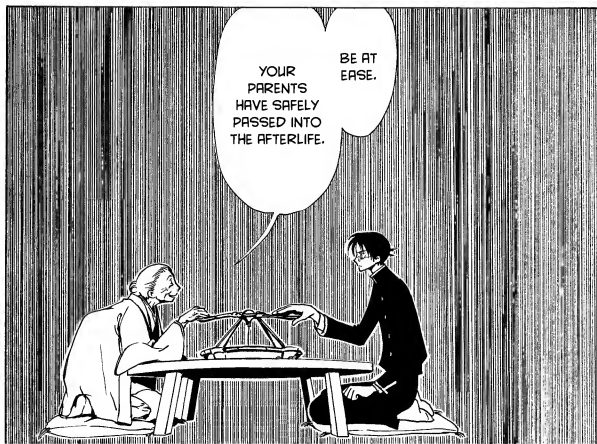
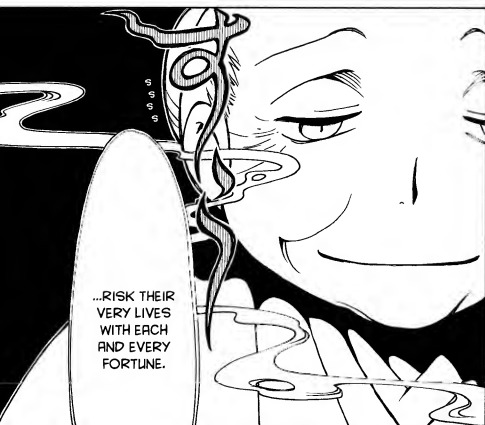
ALL OF
ONE'S
STRENGTH
MUST BE
PUT INTO IT!

BUT
IN THE
CASE OF
A ONE-
ON-ONE
DIVINA-
TION
...

...IF THE
FORTUNE
TELLER
SINCERELY
WANTS TO
TELL A TRUE
DIVINATION
...

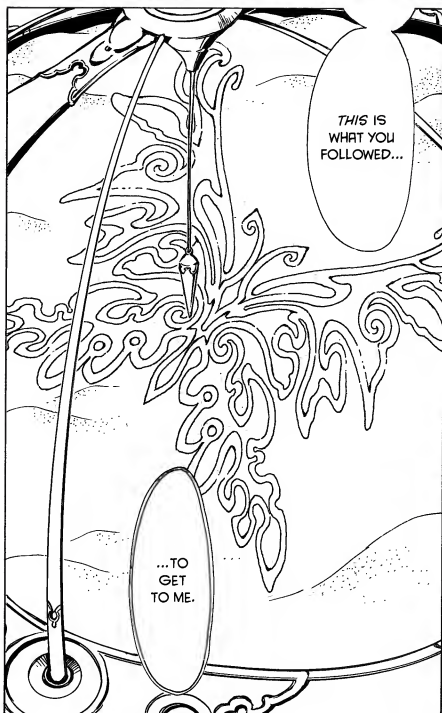
...ONE'S
ALL MUST
BE GIVEN.



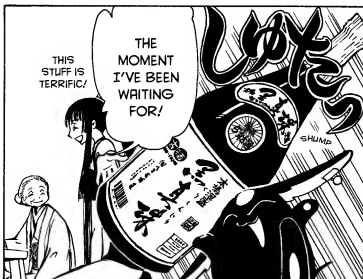






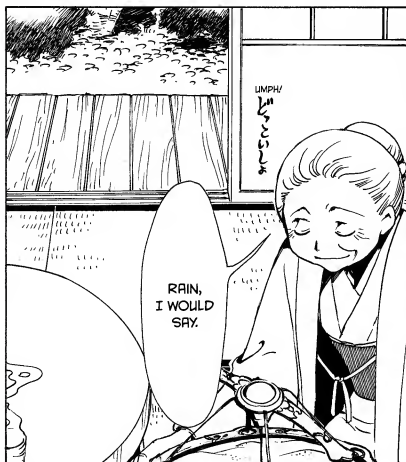
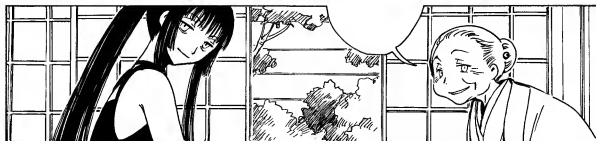


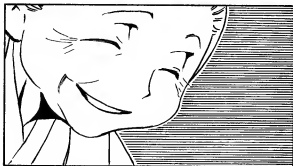






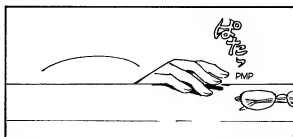
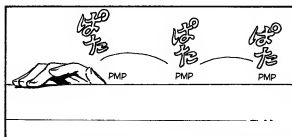








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YOU'RE BOTH
PRETTY GOOD
FOR GUYS
WHO DON'T
PLAY ON THE
SOCCER TEAM.



HIMAWARI-
CHAN!
THAT WAS
A FLUKE!



HIS
NAME IS
SHIZUKA
DÔMEKI-
KUN,
RIGHT?

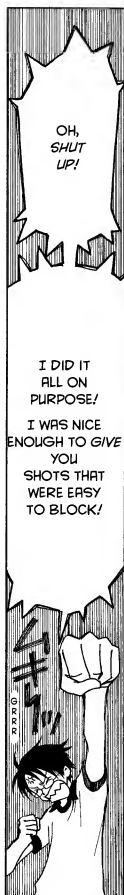


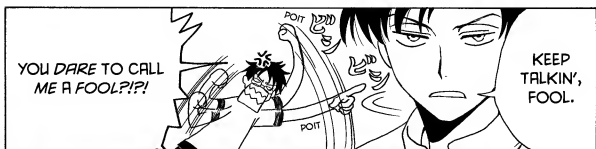
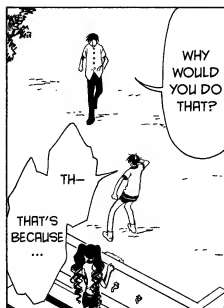
THAT'S
IT!
A
MIRACLE
!!

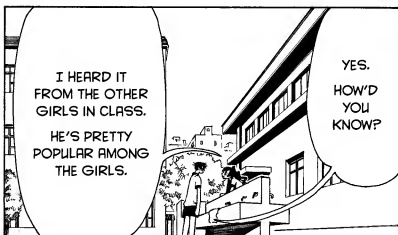
IT HAD
TO BE A
MIRACLE
!!

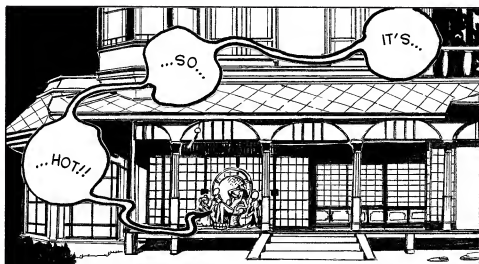
THAT IDIOT
COULD NEVER
BLOCK A SHOT
OF MINE!

EVEN A
"FLUKE"
ISN'T
ENOUGH
FOR HIM!











DUMPED
YOU?



HIMAWARI-
CHAN JUST...

HIMAWARI-
CHAN JUST...

WARAH!



THE TALL,
SILENT TYPE
REALLY GETS
THEM GOING.
AND HIS
ATHLETICISM
IS JUST
ICING ON
THE CAKE.

YOUNG
GIRLS JUST
LOVE GUYS
LIKE HIM.



OH,
NOW
I SEE.



ZHARAN

OOH/
SNOW-
CONE
HEAD-
ACHE!

THAT
ONLY
ADDS
TO HIS
CHICK-
MAGNET
CHARMS!



THIS
GUY,
WHAT
CLUB IS
HE IN?



...THE
ARCHERY
CLUB.



IF IT BUGS
YOU THAT
MUCH, WHY
DON'T YOU
MAKE YOUR
MOVE ON
HER?

SHUKK
SHUKK

SHUKK
SHUKK

AND
I'M IN THE
"GO HOME
RIGHT AFTER
SCHOOL"
CLUB!
DAMMIT!!

HE
MAKES
ME SO
MAD!!



THAT
HOROSCOPE
SAID THAT
YOU TWO WERE
SOMEWHAT
COMPATIBLE,
RIGHT?

IF SO,
NEXT TIME
YOU SEE HER,
ASK HER OUT
ON A DATE.



I
GUESS
...

... WE'LL
JUST
HAVE TO
MAKE
IT A
GROUP
DATE!

HEH
HEH

HUHP?

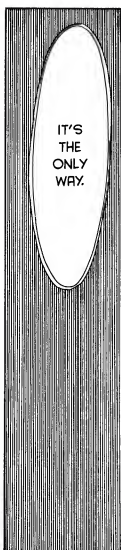


I
WISH.

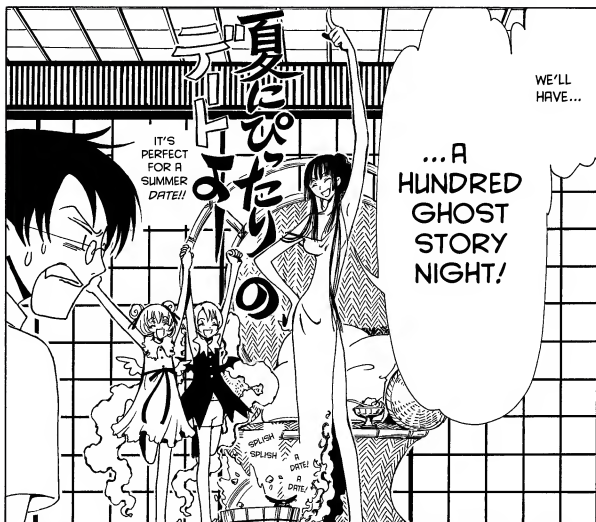
IF I
COULD, I
CERTAINLY
WOULD
LIKE TO...

BUT
YOU
KNOW
HOW
IT IS!

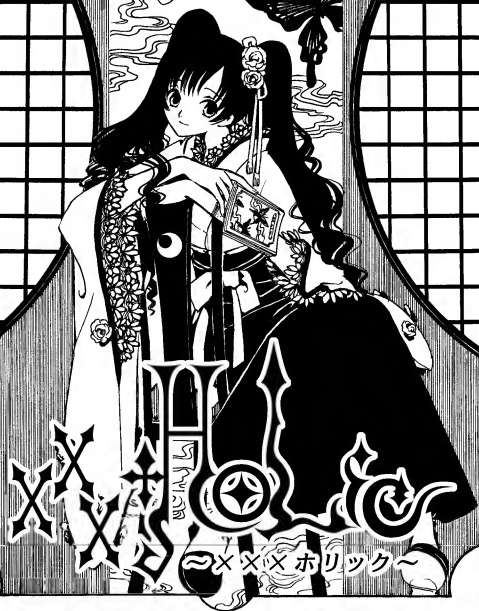
IF I WERE TO
SUDDENLY
BE ALONE
WITH HER, I'D
TENSE UP...
YOU KNOW?



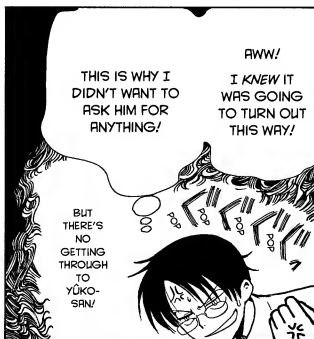


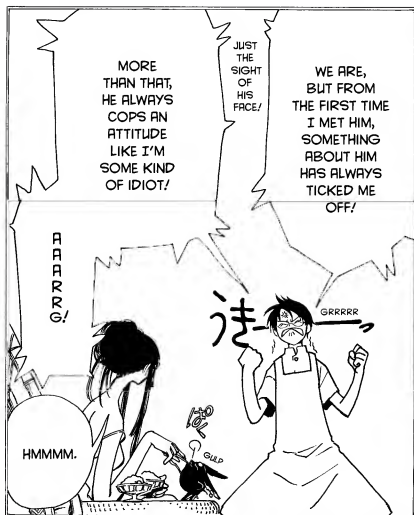


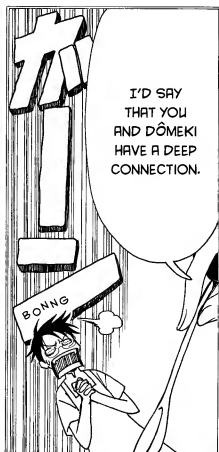
g o l i c



~×××ホリック~

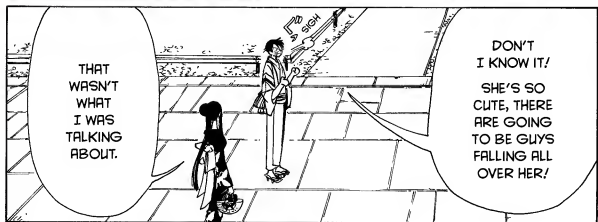






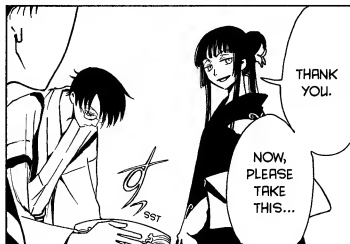
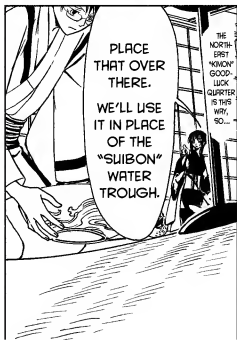




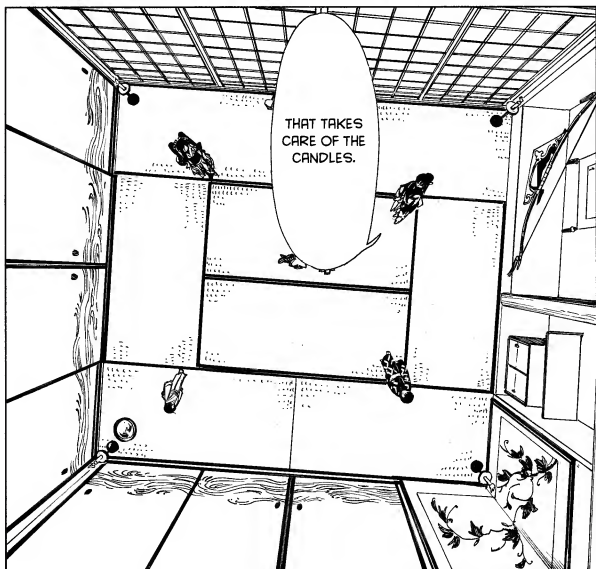


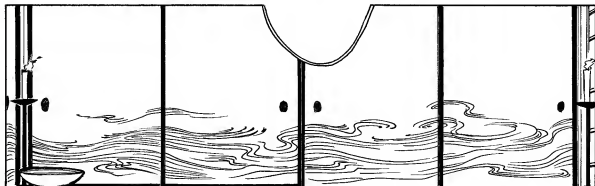






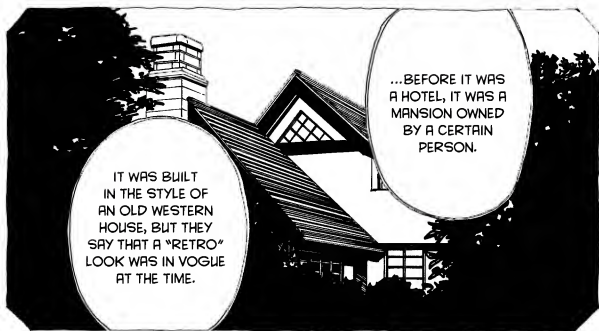












IT WAS BUILT
IN THE STYLE OF
AN OLD WESTERN
HOUSE, BUT THEY
SAID THAT A "RETRO"
LOOK WAS IN VOGUE
AT THE TIME.

...BEFORE IT WAS
A HOTEL, IT WAS A
MANSION OWNED
BY A CERTAIN
PERSON.



...THEY
COUNTED AND
COUNTED, BUT IT
SEEMED THERE
WAS ONE ROOM
MISSING ON THE
THIRD FLOOR.

SO...



THEN
...

...IT CAME
UP WHEN THE
PEOPLE RENTING
OUT THE ROOM
WERE SAYING...



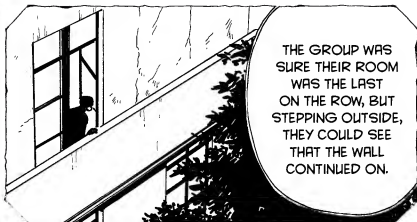
...THAT THEY
COULDN'T SHAKE
THE FEELING THAT
THERE WAS A ROOM
NEXT DOOR TO
THE ONE THEY HAD
RENTED.

HM.
NOT
HALF
BAD.

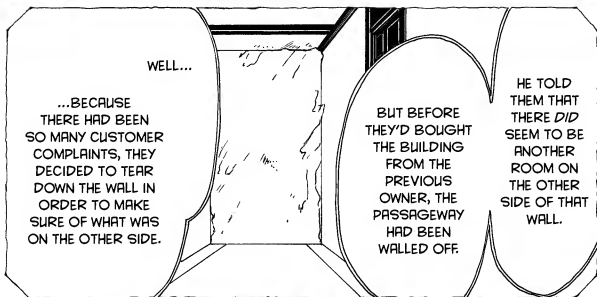


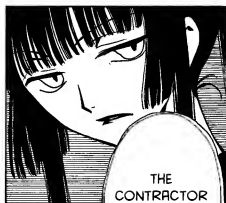
THE SPACING
WAS WRONG.
THERE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN SIX
ROOMS.

...AND ALL THE
ROOMS ON THE
SECOND FLOOR
MATCHED UP
RIGHT—SIX ON
THE SECOND
FLOOR, BUT
JUST FIVE ON
THE THIRD.

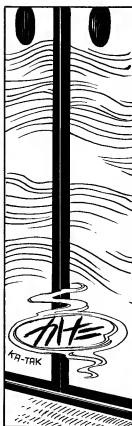




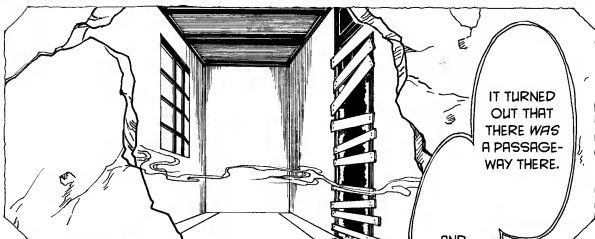




THE
CONTRACTOR
CAME, AND
THEY BROKE
THROUGH
THE WALL.



THE
NEXT
DAY...

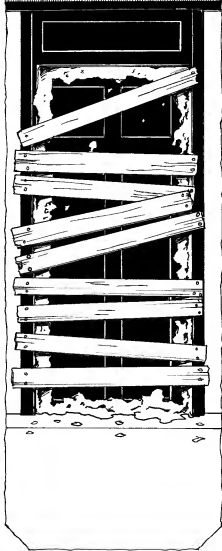
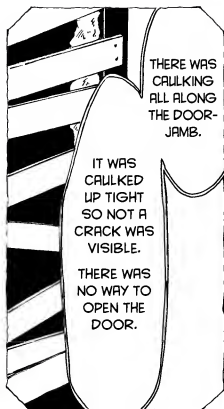


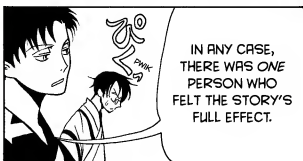
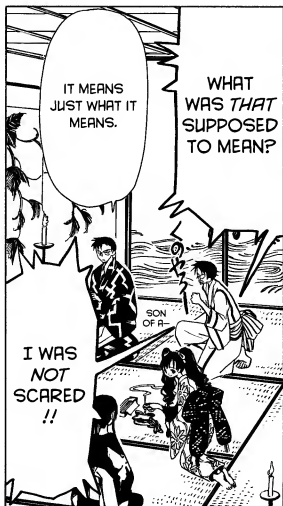
IT TURNED
OUT THAT
THERE WAS
A PASSAGE-
WAY THERE.

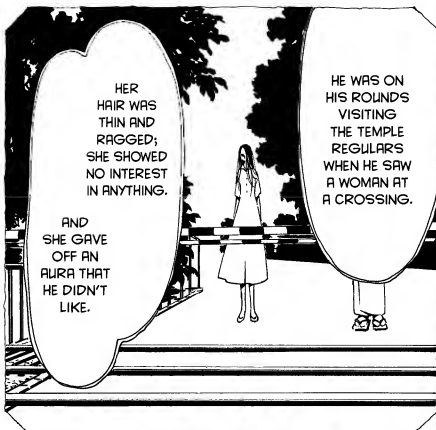


IT
LOOKED
LIKE IT
SHOULD BE
EXACTLY
THE SAME
AS THE
OTHER
ROOMS
...

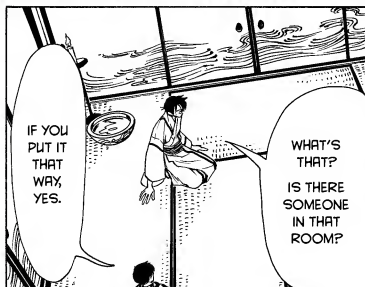
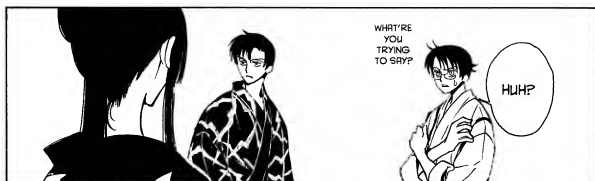
AND
THERE WAS
ANOTHER
ROOM NEXT
DOOR TO
THE ONE THE
GROUP WAS
STAYING IN.

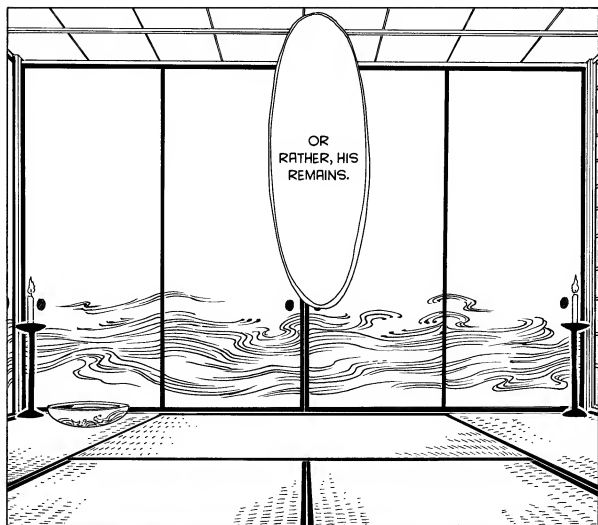






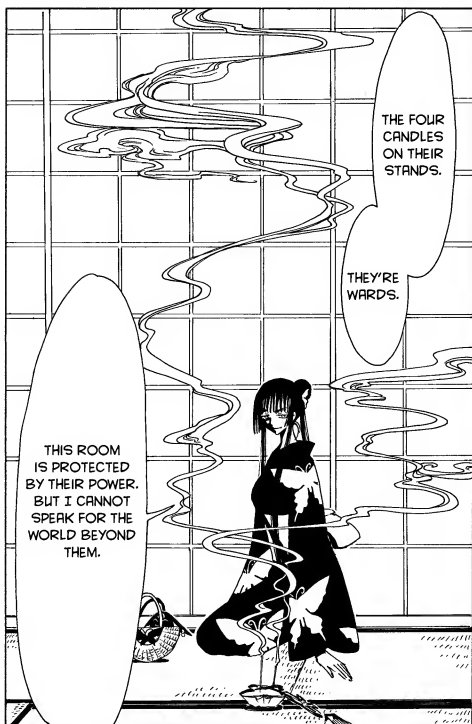


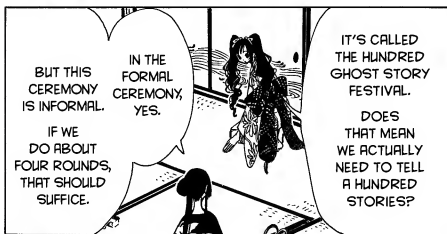


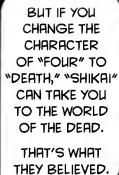


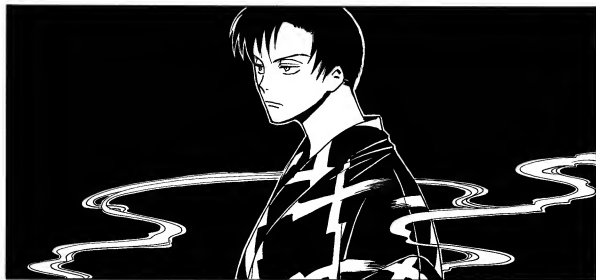




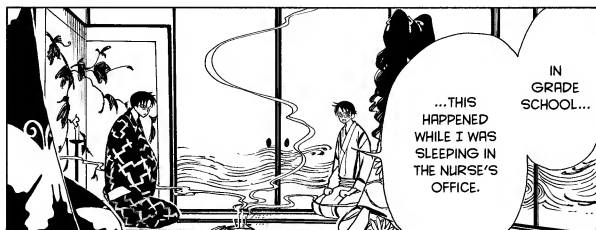
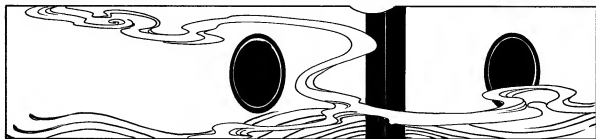
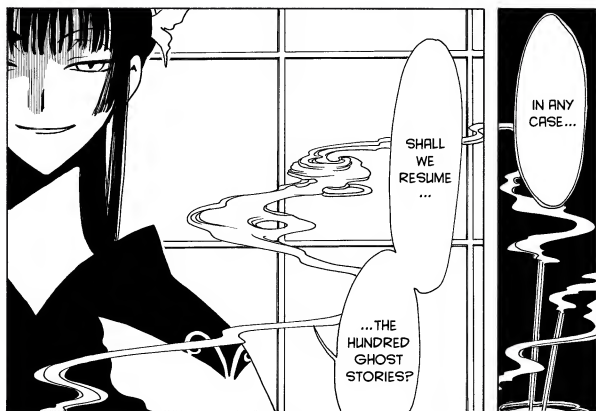














"WELL,
TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR-
SELF!"



"HEY,
MISTER?
ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?"

HE
ASKED
IN A
WORRIED
VOICE.



I HAD
A BAD
HEADACHE,
AND I WAS
VERY OUT
OF IT.
SOMEONE
WAS TALKING
TO ME FROM
OUTSIDE THE
WINDOW.



...WE
TALKED
FOR A BIT.

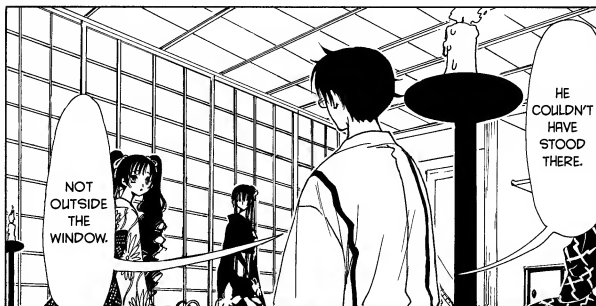
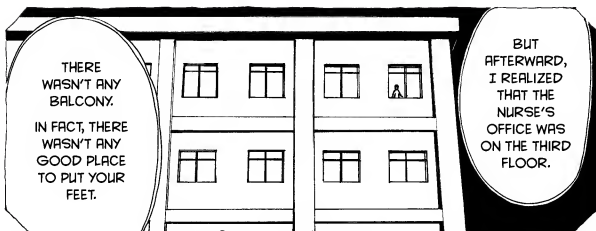
AND
...

WHEN I
TOLD HIM
IT WAS
JUST A
HEADACHE
...
...HE SAID,
"OH,
I'M SO
RELIEVED!"

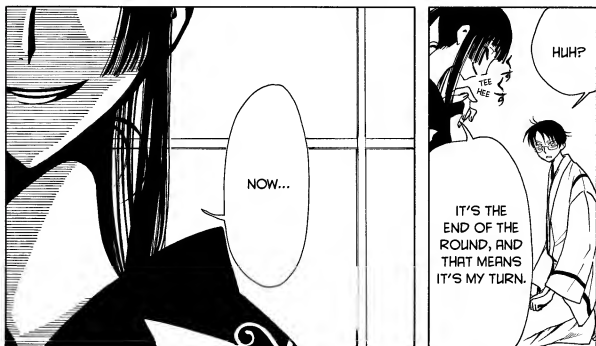
...HE SAID AS HE
WAVED GOOD-BYE,
AND HE VANISHED
FROM SIGHT.

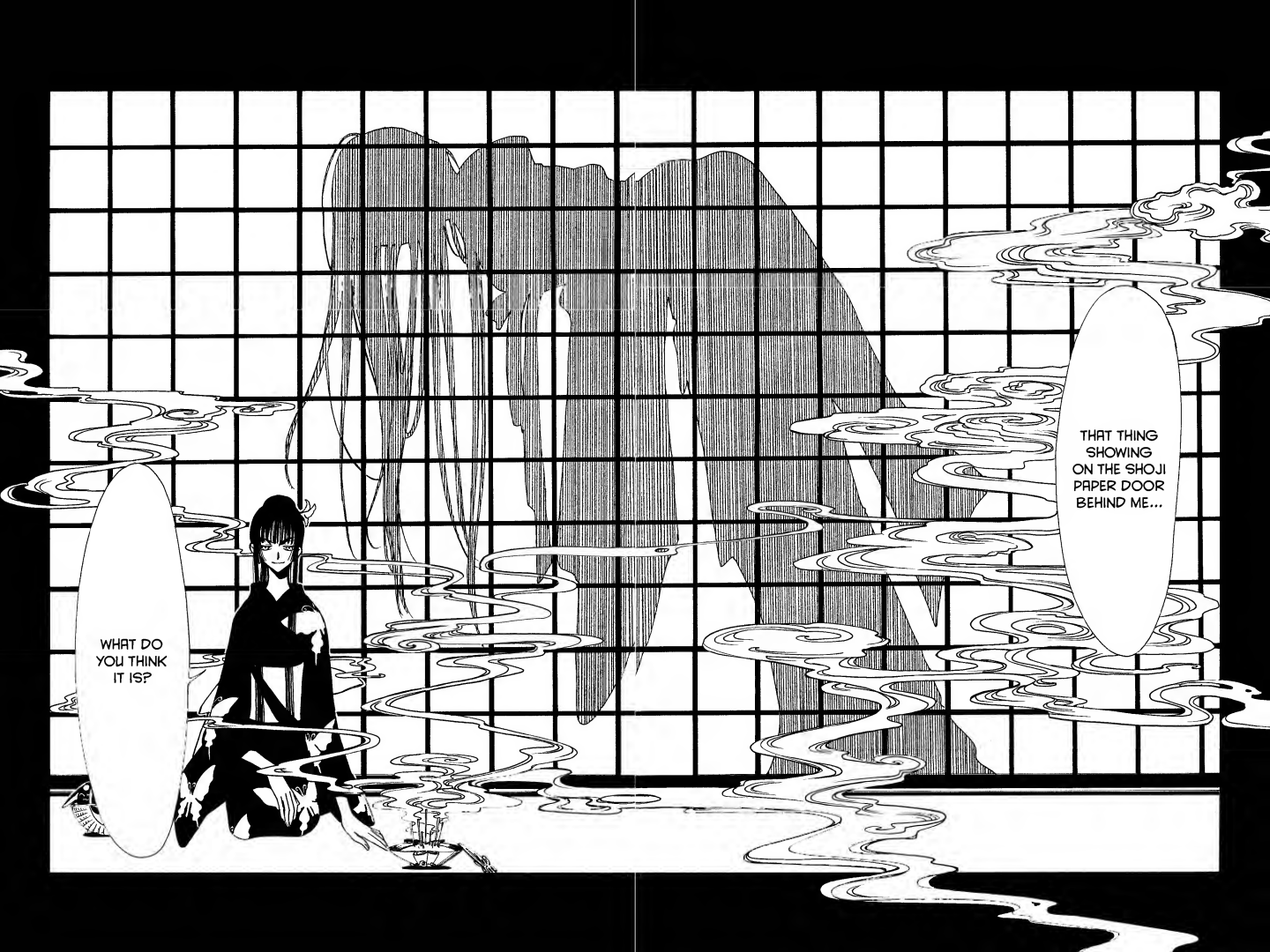


I'D
NEVER
SEEN
HIM BE-
FORE.
BUT
IN GRADE
SCHOOL, THERE
ARE A LOT OF
CHILDREN WHO
YOU DON'T
REMEMBER, SO
I NEVER PAID IT
ANY ATTENTION.





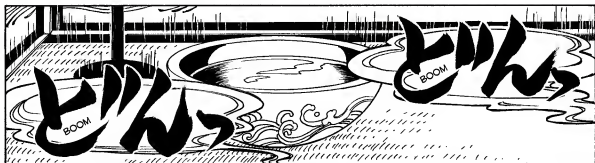




WHAT DO
YOU THINK
IT IS?

THAT THING
SHOWING
ON THE SHOJI
PAPER DOOR
BEHIND ME...





THE WATER'S
NOT MOVING
AT ALL!

WITH THE
FLOOR
SHAKING
THIS
BADLY...

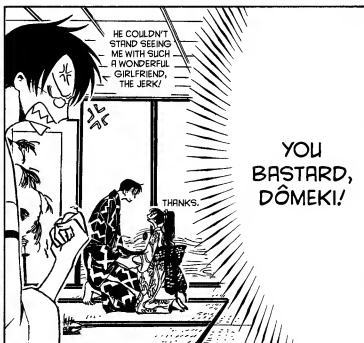
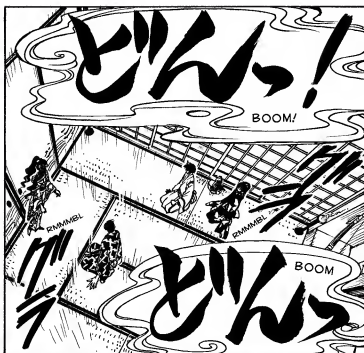


BUT...

...THE
WARDS
ARE IN
DANGER.



WATANUKI-KUN!
BEHIND YOU!!



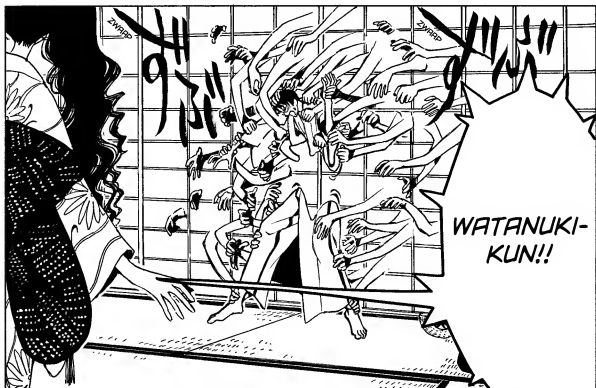
HE COULDN'T
STAND SEEING
ME WITH SUCH
A WONDERFUL
GIRLFRIEND,
THE JERK!

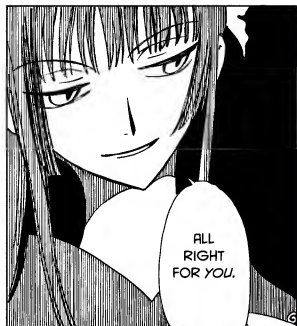
THANKS.

YOU
BASTARD,
DÔMEKI!

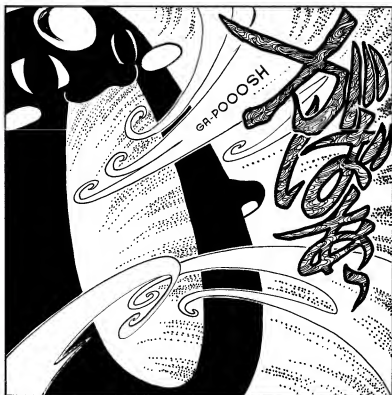
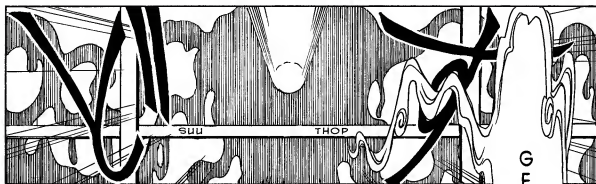




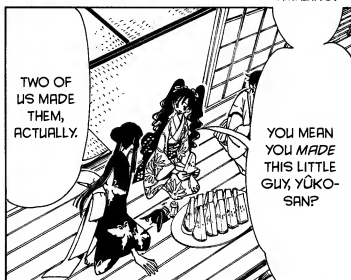
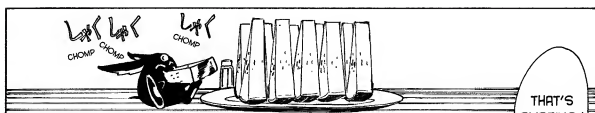












"ODD" IS
TOO LIGHT
A WORD FOR
SUCH AN
OUTLANDISH
THING!

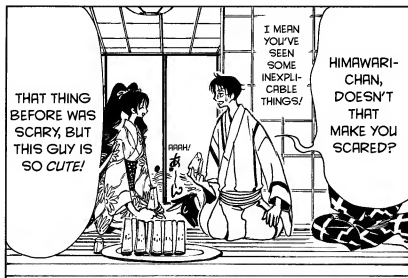
HIMAWARI-CHAN'S
INDIFFERENCE IS
INCREDIBLE!



THAT THING
BEFORE WAS
SCARY, BUT
THIS GUY IS
SO CUTE!

I MEAN
YOU'VE
SEEN
SOME
INEXPLI-
CABLE
THINGS!

HIMAWARI-
CHAN,
DOESN'T
THAT
MAKE YOU
SCARED?



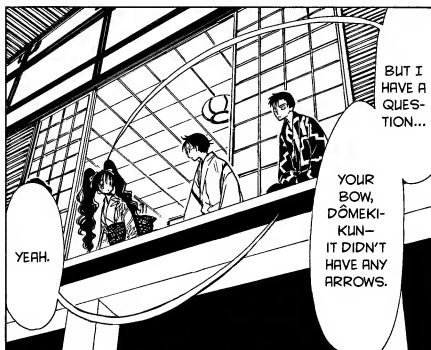
BESIDES,
I REALLY
LIKE ODD
THINGS!

HA HA



IT DIDN'T?

THEN
WHAT DID I
SEE FLYING?

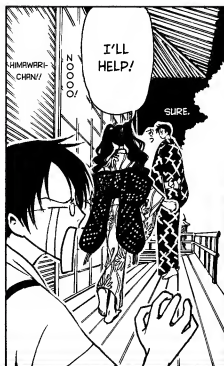


YEAH.

BUT I
HAVE A
QUES-
TION...

YOUR
BOW,
DÔMEKI-
KUN—
IT DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
ARROWS.





HIMAWARI-
CHIN!!

NOOOO!!

I'LL
HELP!

SURE.



YES...

BUT IF
YOU
COULD...

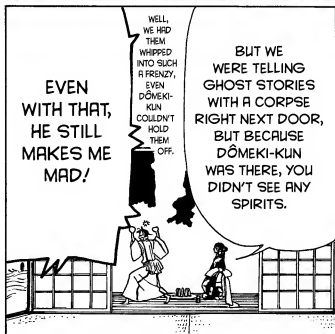
I'LL GET
US SOME
DRINKS.

IS TEA ALL
RIGHT WITH
EVERYONE?



ビールね
BEER,
HUHP

I
WANT
BEER
!!



EVEN
WITH THAT,
HE STILL
MAKES ME
MAD!

WELL,
WE HAD
THEM
WHIPPED
INTO SUCH
A FRENZY,
EVEN DÔMEKI-
KUN
COULDN'T
HOLD THEM
OFF.

BUT WE
WERE TELLING
GHOST STORIES
WITH A CORPSE
RIGHT NEXT DOOR,
BUT BECAUSE
DÔMEKI-KUN
WAS THERE, YOU
DIDN'T SEE ANY
SPIRITS.



I'D
RATHER
NOT BE
COM-
PARED
TO HIM!

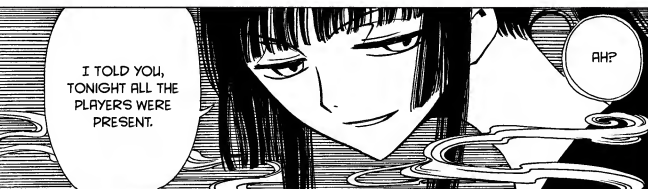
JUST
LIKE
YOU'RS!
♥

IT SEEMS
THAT
DÔMEKI-
KUN'S
POWER IS
PASSED
DOWN
THROUGH
HIS FAMILY.



...IS PROBABLY
THE SAME EMOTION
AS THOSE SPIRITS
THAT ARE SO EAGER
TO HAUNT YOU.

THAT...



I TOLD YOU,
TONIGHT ALL THE
PLAYERS WERE
PRESENT.

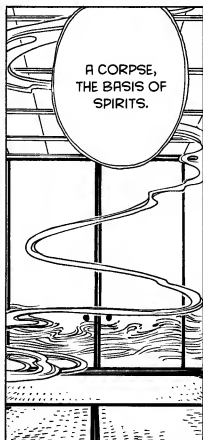
AH?



AND ONE
WHO CAN
EXORCISE
THEM.



ONE WHO
SEES AND
DRAWS
SPIRITS
TO HIM.



A CORPSE,
THE BASIS OF
SPIRITS.



I
DON'T
WANNA!

ONE LOOK AT
HIM, AND I
GET ANGRY!

I TOLD
YOU TO
BECOME
FRIENDS
WITH HIM.

WE DID IT WITH THE
HUNDRED GHOST
STORY CEREMONY,
BUT EVEN IN THE
FUTURE, IF YOU HAVE
PROBLEMS WITH
SPIRITS, YOU CAN
BRING THEM TO
DÔMEKI-KUN.







Past Works

CLAMP have created many series. Here is a brief overview of one of them.

Magic Knight Rayearth

Hikaru, Umi, and Fuu never dreamed their field trip would end up in another dimension, but that's exactly what happens to the trio of middle school students from different schools. After hearing a voice calling to them in the Tokyo Tower, the three are shocked as the floor mysteriously opens up—and sucks them into the magical land called Cephire. The girls learn they are its last line of defense against an evil priest, Zagato, seeking to enslave and reshape the land in his image.

Hikaru, Umi, and Fuu were summoned by the imprisoned Princess Emeraude, Cephire's Pillar, who has kept their land peaceful. They are told by the mysterious Clef that the world was shaped by Emeraude's vision and thoughts, but since she's been trapped a darkness threatens the land. The trio are told the only way to return to Earth is to become the Magic Knights of legend and help save this universe.

After being given Mokona as an apparent mascot, each gets a portion of power from an elemental. Hikaru is one with fire, Umi has a link to water, and Fuu has ties to the wind. As the girls learn more and use their newfound powers, they will grow stronger. The trio are now on a quest to find the other elements necessary to aid in the rescue of Emeraude, but it's not an easy journey. There are evil forces seeking to destroy the potential Knights. Against almost impossible odds and facing bodily harm and danger, the freshman Knights attempt to save Cephire and return home to the lives each left behind.

Artifacts and Miscellany

Over in *Tsubasa* you'll find a lot of characters from a variety of CLAMP manga making an appearance. Here in the second volume of *xxxHOLiC*, you'll find a few artifacts and other appearances that might be a bit hard to understand if you haven't read all of CLAMP's work. Don't read this section if you haven't read this volume yet—there's a reason we put this information at the end of the book!

Kero

The one *Cardcaptor Sakura* character most conspicuously absent from *Tsubasa* is Kero, the plush animal-like Guardian Beast that advises the CS Sakura. This stuffed animal in the back room of Yûko's shop looks suspiciously like Kero. Is it just a pleasant surprise for the reader, or is it a hint at what's to come?



Clow Reed

Referenced in *xxxHOLiC* Volume 1, Clow Reed makes his first (partial) appearance in *xxxHOLiC* Volume 2. Clow Reed was the creator of the Clow Cards, the Cardcaptor wand, and of the guardians Kero/Cerberus and Yue. In conjunction with Yûko, Clow Reed also created the Mokonas.



Kurogane

You can learn a lot more about Kurogane over in *Tsubasa*, but here's the thumbnail version: A warrior ninja who fights in the service of Princess Tomoyo, Kurogane is quick-tempered, violent, arrogant, and unrestrained. In an effort to teach him humility and, perhaps, empathy, Tomoyo has sent him to visit Yûko, the space-time witch. Like Fai and Syaoran, Kurogane has a wish: to return home.

Fai D. Florite

Again, you'll learn a lot more about Fai by reading his story in *Tsubasa*. Fai is himself a wizard in his land of Celes. When we first meet him in *Tsubasa*, he appears to have just completed a battle with Prince Ashura. Whether he won or lost that battle is unclear. Leaving his beloved creation Chi behind to guard against Ashura's return, Fai seeks Yûko to grant a wish directly opposite to Kurogane's: to journey without being forced to return home.





The Apple

Ah, now here's where it starts to get fun. Over in *Tsubasa*, Syaoran and his traveling companions are exploring the world of Hanshin. In the marketplace, they find an apple. Since each person comes from a different dimension, each has a different expectation of what an apple should look like. Mokona insists that they buy the apple, and that would seem to be the end of it.

But if you're paying close attention, you'll notice Mokona-White gulping the apple down . . .

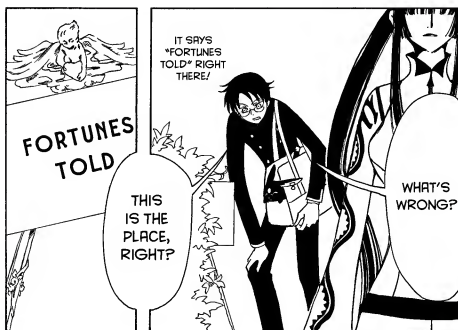


. . . and Mokona-Black choking it right back up! A little disgusting, perhaps, but fun nonetheless.



***Uranai:* Fortune-telling in Japan**

On almost every street in Japan there are signs for one form or another of fortune-telling—they're as common as McDonald's signs are in Western circles. The Japanese believe fortune-telling is a very important part of daily life, and the general term for fortune-telling in Japan is *uranai*. In modern American society, fortune-telling usually consists of a few major areas: psychic reading, palmistry, zodiac astrology, and tarot. There are other areas, but those four categories comprise probably 85% or more of the paid fortune-telling in America. Japanese *uranai* makes use of those four, but the variety of other styles is much, much wider. Throw in Chinese astrology, the Tantric-based 27-constellation astrology, blood-type analysis, various versions of numerology, and *uranai* based on the *kanji* characters in your name, and that's only scratching the surface. Japan also embraces *uranai* more than America—walk down any downtown street in Tokyo and you will find some woman with a table and a sign in a darkened corner of the sidewalk. If she's good, she'll have customers lining up all night long.



Some people won't even make any important decisions without first consulting some type of fortune-teller. There are three main types practiced in Japan: Omikuji, Seimeihandan, and Teso.

Omikuji is arguably the most popular. It's comparable to the use of Chinese fortune cookies. Many people go to shrines to purchase Omikuji to learn about the upcoming year. You get Omikuji by picking a piece of wood with a number on it. The number is exchanged for the slip of paper containing either good or bad luck. If it's good luck, the next year looks great! If it's bad luck, you can dispel it by visiting a shrine and tying the slip of paper to a tree there.

Seimeihandan means divination. It's the practice of using a person's name to determine his or her future, and it was used by Yûko to determine Watanuki's future in *xxxHOLiC* Volume 1. Many Japanese believe a person's name will decide what type of life he or she has. Fortune-tellers count the strokes in the kanji of a client's name and use that information to give advice and news.



Teso is the common palm-reading that most Western people are familiar with. A fortune-teller will examine the lines on a person's palm and use that as a basis for determining personality and the future. Everyone has unique lines, and each one has a different significance such as the love line, the life line, the heart line, etc. By examining all the lines together a lot can be learned.

Translation Notes

For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes to help you understand some of the cultural and story references from our translation of *xxxHOLiC*.

It's . . . so . . . hot!

In Japan, summer is the time for the dead (see below), a time for catching colds, and a time for complaining about how hot and sticky Tokyo is. With temperatures in the nineties and humidity nearing 100%, they have every right to complain. Some would say that with the technological advancements that come out of Japan, one should expect more air conditioners. But traditional-style homes are not built for this luxury, and the ever-traditional Yûko both swelters in her traditional home and, as per tradition, complains up a storm.



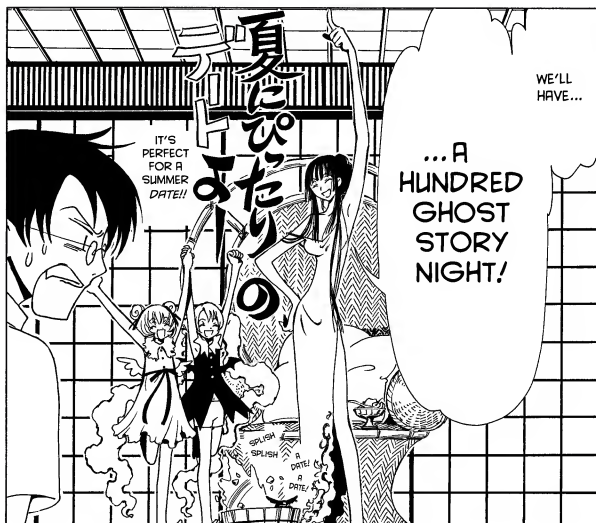
The "Go Home Right After School Club"



As you probably guessed, there is no official club called the "Go Home Right After School Club." It's just a name for the students who haven't joined clubs. But most Japanese students do belong to a club of some sort—mostly sports clubs or hobby clubs. The clubs are not only a way to explore a student's interests, but also provide a social group, contacts, and moral or psychological support for the student. Dômeki's Archery Club is considered one of the more elite clubs of any high school because of the skill and concentration needed. Of course, the most popular clubs for guys are the soccer and baseball clubs.

Ghost Stories in the Summer

America centers its ghost season around Halloween, and so the harvest has become connected, in North American minds, with ghosts and ghouls. In Japan, *O-bon*, the annual festival celebrating one's ancestors which usually takes place in August (the date can differ from temple to temple), has become the gateway for the dead—or at least frightening stories about them. After long centuries of *O-bon* tradition, high summer has become the season for ghosts.



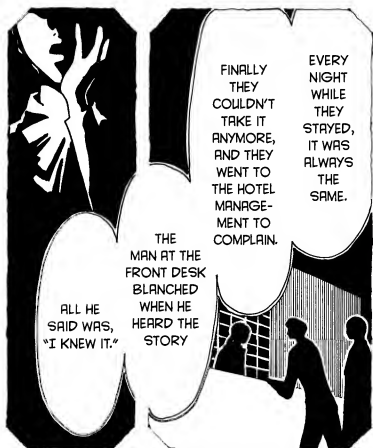
Yukata

Tokyo, in the summer, is hot and sticky (see above), and one of the practical and beautiful innovations that Japan developed for this very purpose is a light cotton kimono called a *yukata*. Inexpensive and exquisitely decorated with prints or embroidery, women's *yukata* are a delightful addition to festivals and ceremonies.



Hotel Room

American hotels tend to have rooms on both sides of the hall. Older-style Japanese hotels and apartment blocks tend to have a hallway against one exterior wall, and all of the rooms lined up like blocks along it. That's why there was only one room off of the walled-off hallway in Himawari-chan's story.



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I
WANT
IT...
...
WATANUKI.

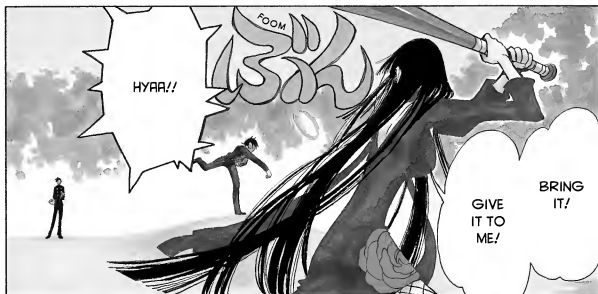
NOW
GIVE
IT TO
ME...
...WITH
EVERYTHING
YOU GOT!



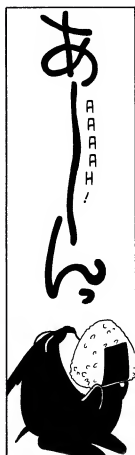
YOU
WANT IT,
RIGHT?
YOU
REALLY
WANT IT
FROM
ME?



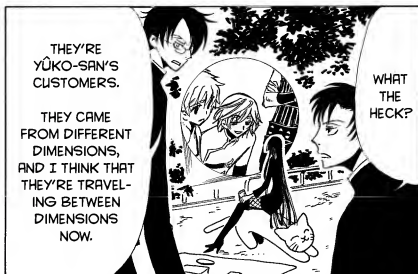






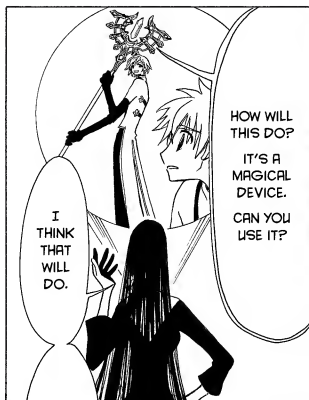




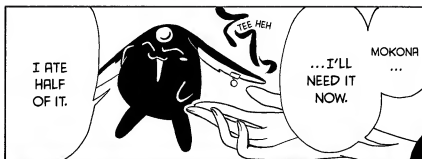


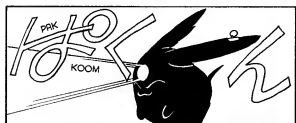




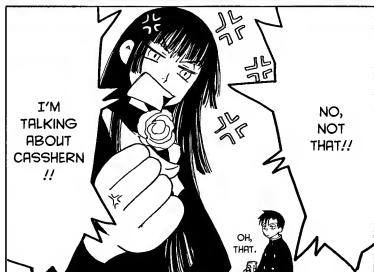
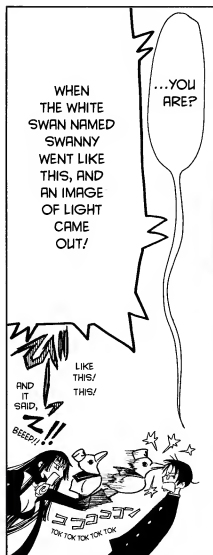




















WELL,
WHATEVER
THEY NAME
IT...

...THE
DANGER
IT POSES
DOESN'T
CHANGE.



BECAUSE
ANGEL-SAN
SOUNDS
A LITTLE
SOFTER.

WHY
WOULD
THEY
GIVE IT A
DIFFERENT
NAME.



IT IS
DANGEROUS!
I THOUGHT
IT MIGHT BE!



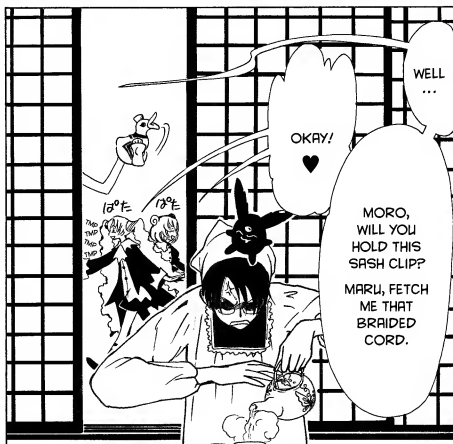
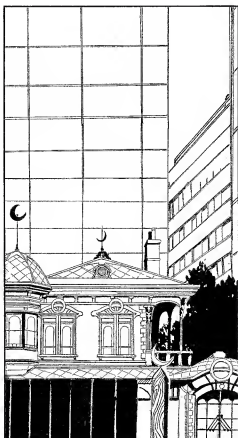
YES!

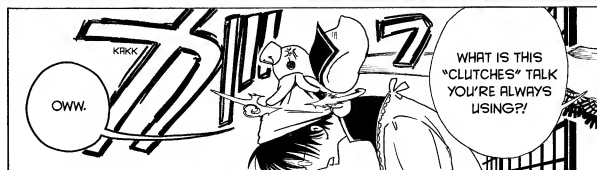
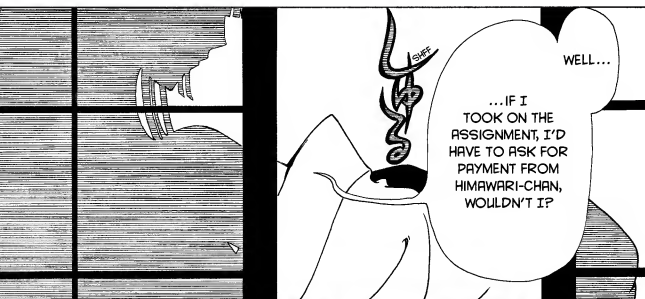
I'M KIND
OF WORRIED,
AND IF I CAN
HELP...

DO YOU
WANT TO
HELP THIS
NEIGHBOR
OF YOURS?







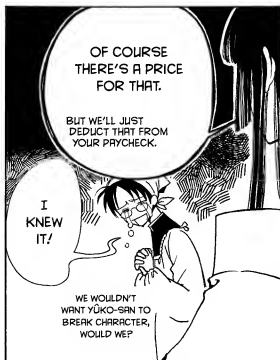








OH,
YŪKO-
SAN!!



OF COURSE
THERE'S A PRICE
FOR THAT.

BUT WE'LL JUST
DEDUCT THAT FROM
YOUR PAYCHECK.

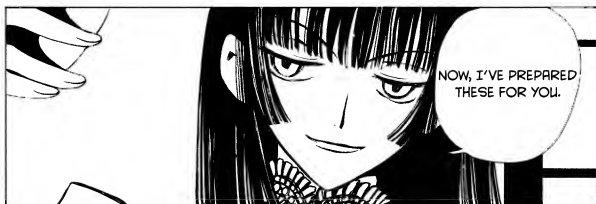
I
KNEW
IT!

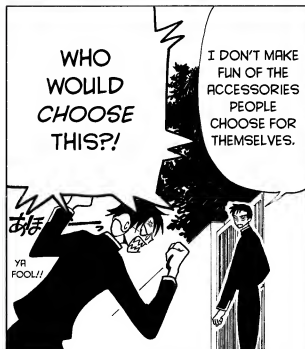
WE WOULDN'T
WANT YŪKO-SAN TO
BREAK CHARACTER,
WOULD WE?



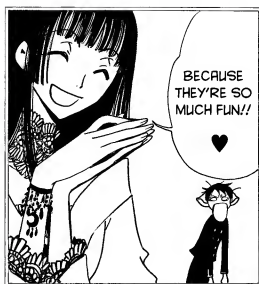
I
WON'T
BE GOING
WITH YOU
...

...BUT
I CAN
GIVE YOU
ADVICE.











NOW
FACE THE
SCHOOL
AND...

THEN PAY
ATTENTION
AND LISTEN
TO WHAT
I HAVE TO
SAY!

GO!!



DON'T
GIVE ME YOUR
"GO!!"



WE'RE
HEADING
IN!
QUIT
LAGGING
BEHIND!

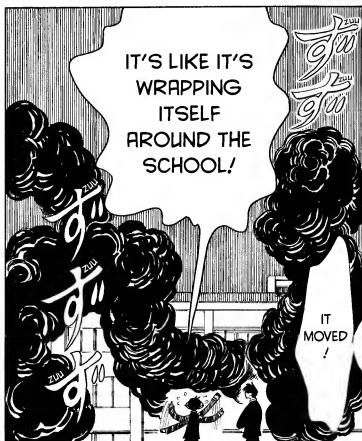
GET
A
MOVE
ON!

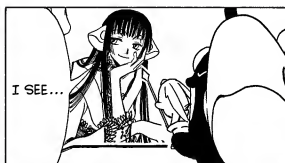
YOU WERE
THE ONE WHO
WAS JUST
STANDING
THERE.

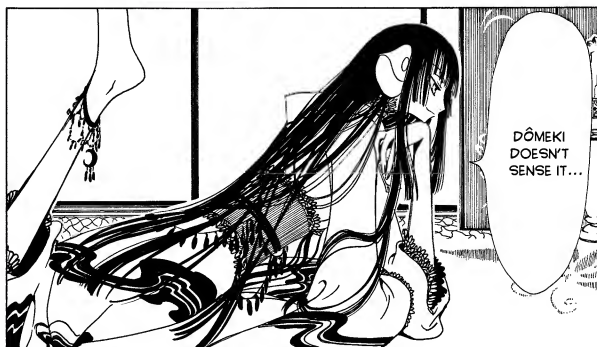
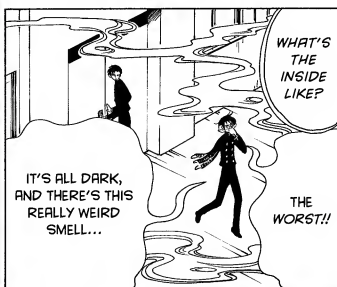
IF CHARGING
IN ENDS THIS
CASE, THESE
EARS ARE
COMING OFF!!

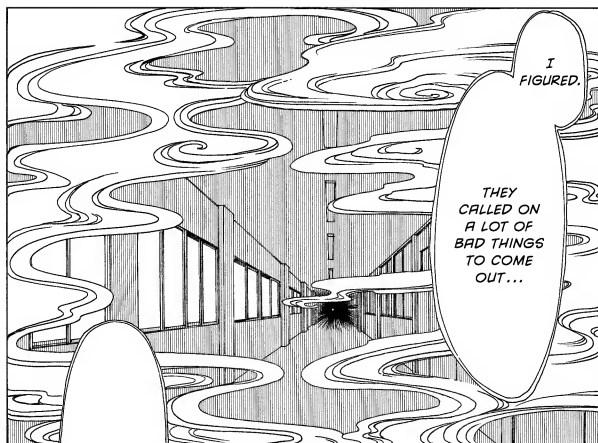
















IF HE
WEREN'T
HERE, YOU
WOULD HAVE
COLLAPSED
BY NOW,
WATANUKI.

BUT
IT'S BETTER
NOW THAN
IT WOULD BE
IF DÔMEKI
WEREN'T
HERE.



WHAT IS
SHE SAYING
TO YOU?

BE GRATEFUL
TO DÔMEKI!



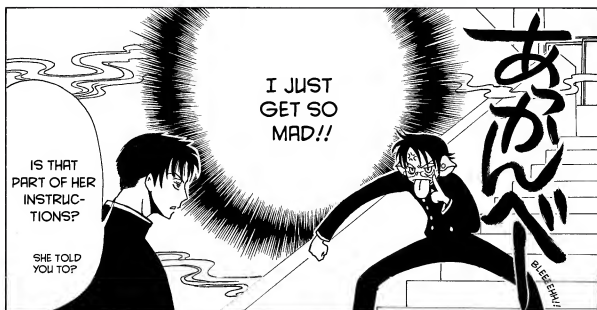
WHEN I
SEE IT...

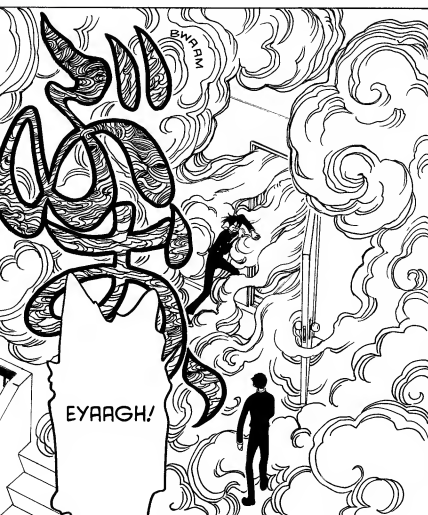
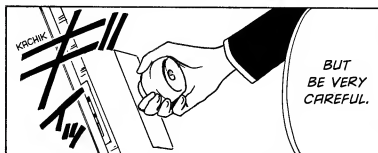


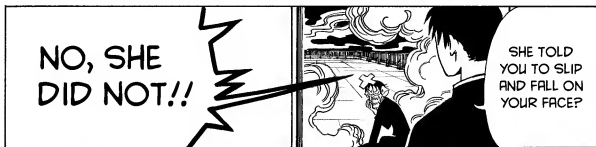
WHEN I
SEE THAT
FACE...



GRATEFUL
?!









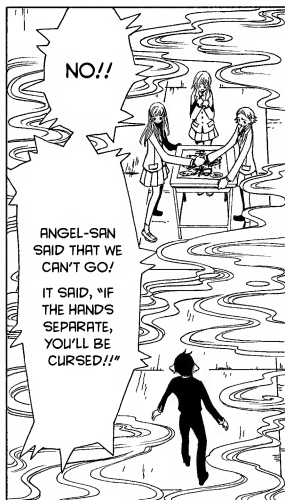








WE'VE
ASKED IT
TIME AND
TIME AGAIN
TO LET US
GO HOME!



NO!!

ANGEL-SAN
SAID THAT WE
CAN'T GO!

IT SAID, "IF
THE HANDS
SEPARATE,
YOU'LL BE
CURSED!!"

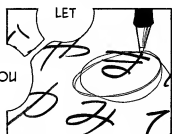
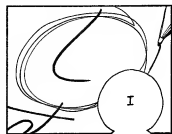
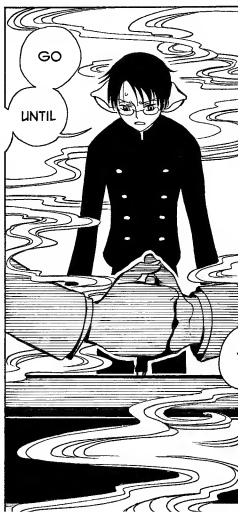
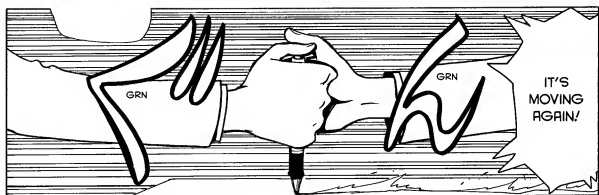


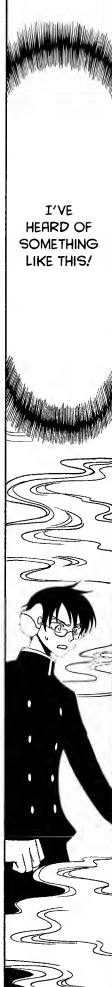
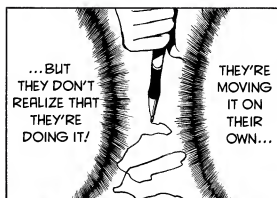
IT'S MOVING
ON ITS OWN
AGAIN!

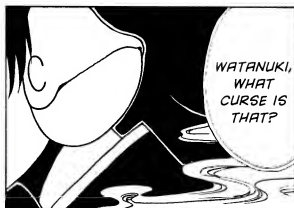


LET GO
OF YOUR
HANDS!!

YOUR
HANDS!









EYAAAAAAH!!



NO!
IT'S NOT
WHAT YOU
THINK!



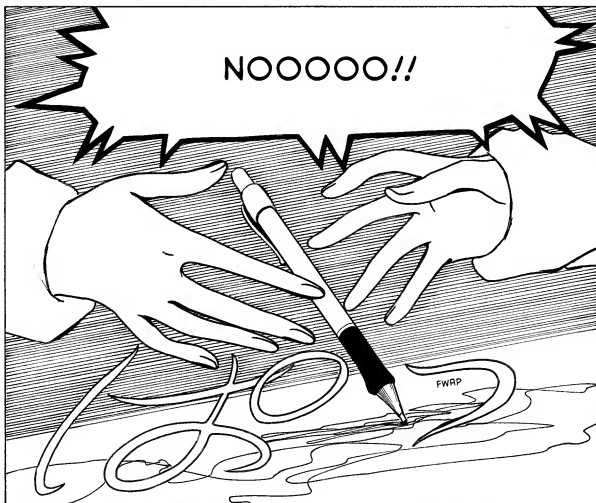
IT'S
LIKE IT'S
BEING
TORN TO
PIECES!

MY
HAND!
IT
HURTS!!







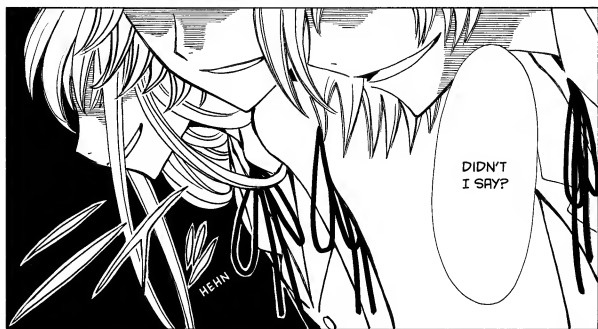




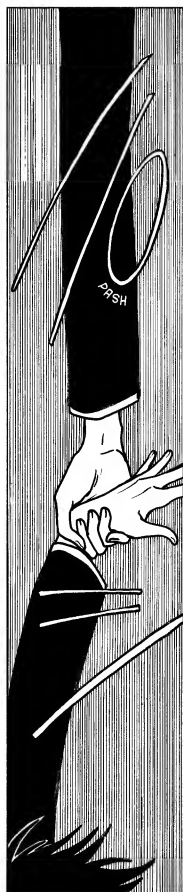
I'VE BEEN
WONDERING
WHY YOU'VE
BEEN RUNNING
AROUND, ALL
BY YOURSELF.

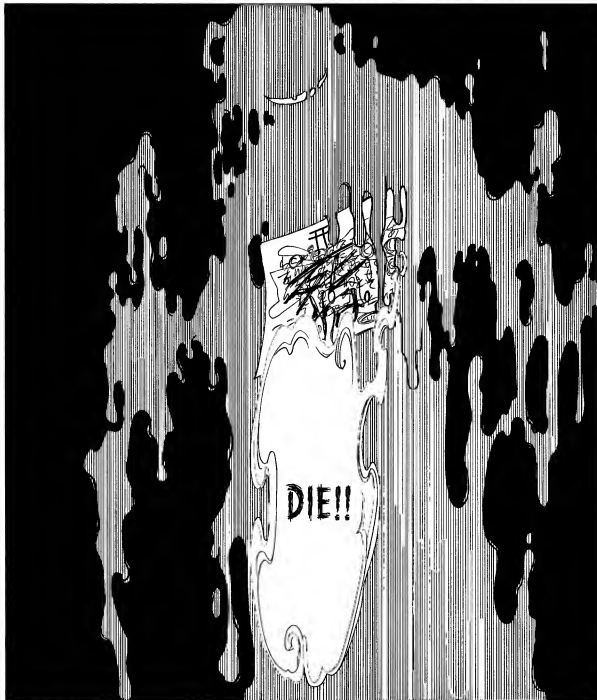


GIVE
YOU A
HAND?





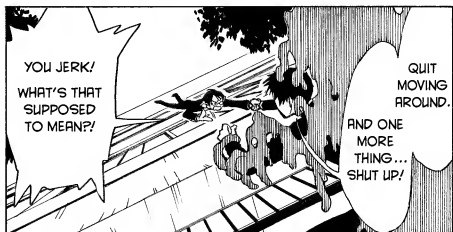
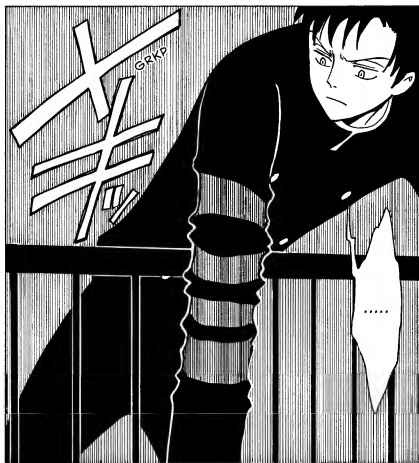


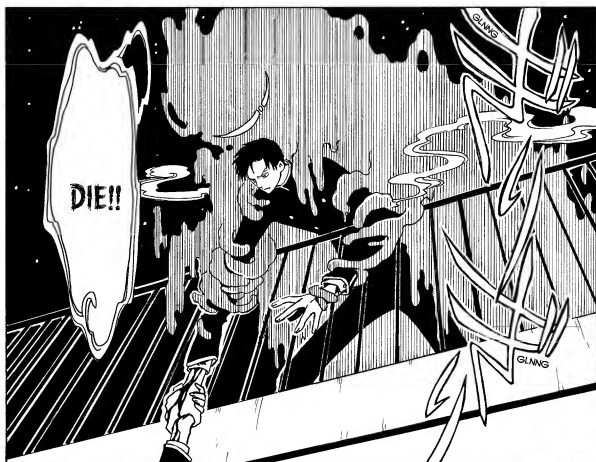


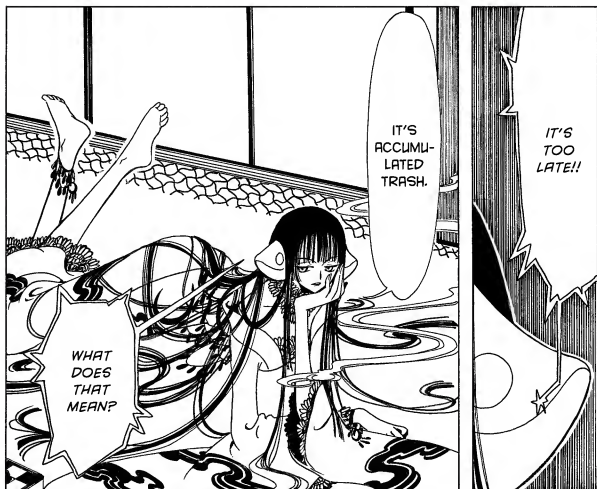


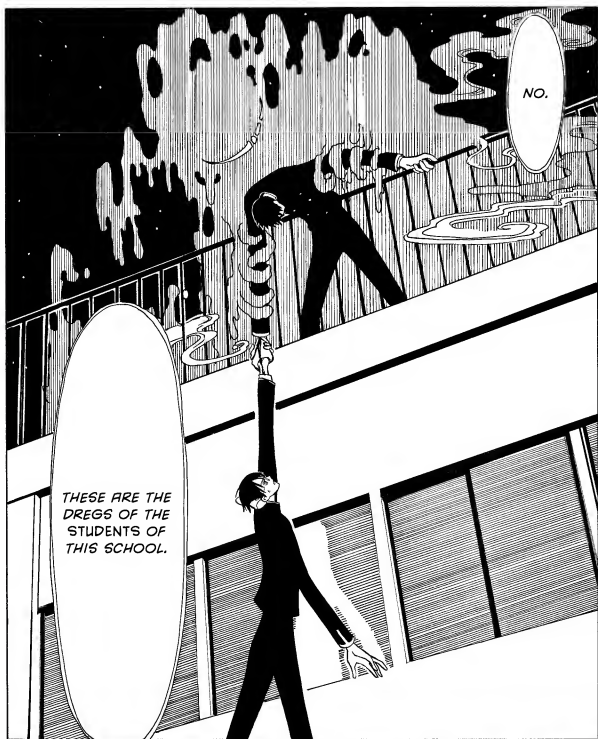


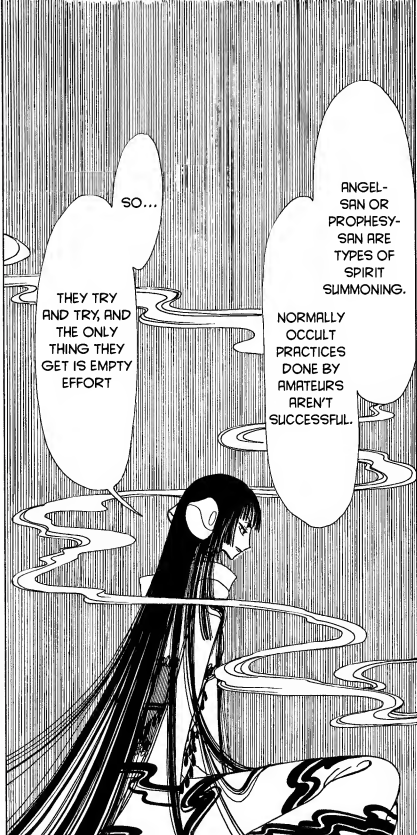














BETTER IF
WEIRD THINGS
APPEARED.

...THAT
IT WOULD
BE BETTER
IF SCARY
THINGS
APPEARED.



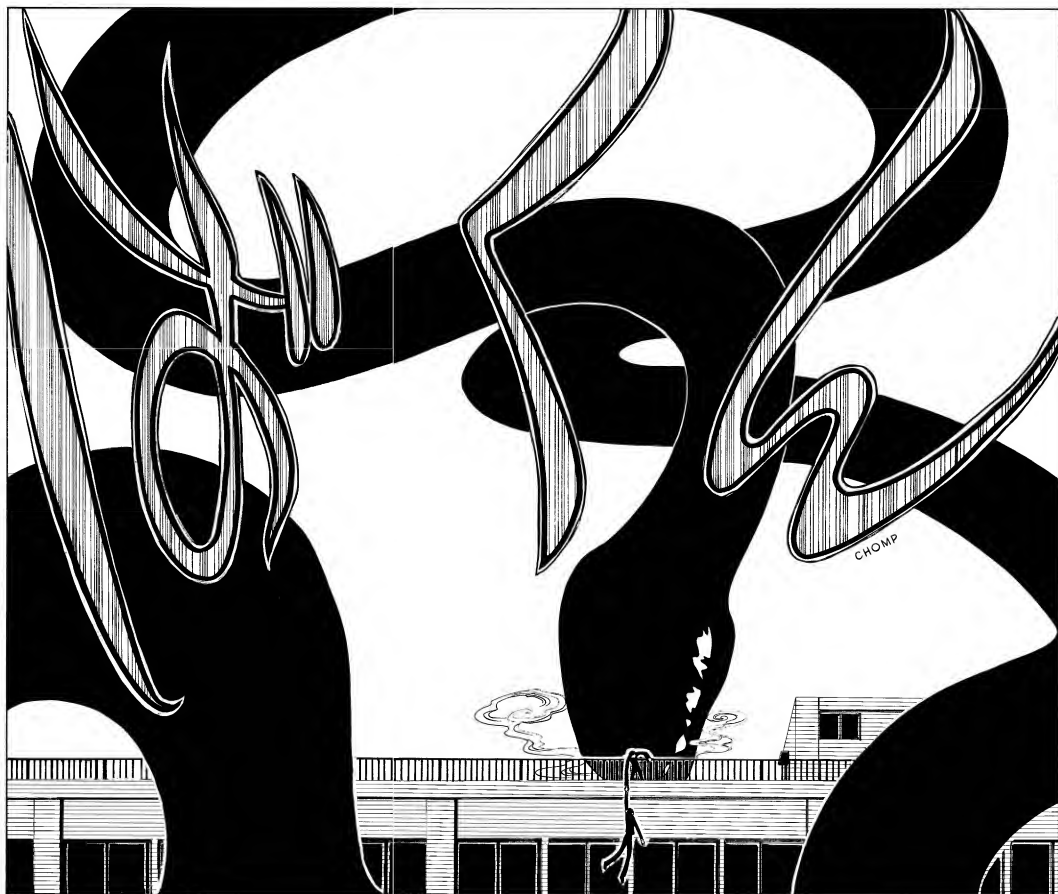
THAT
WOULD BE
INTERESTING.

BETTER IF
SOMEONE
HAPPENED
TO DIE.



WHAT YOU SEE
ARE THE DREGS
OF "INNOCENT
CURSES" OF
THOSE STUDENTS.









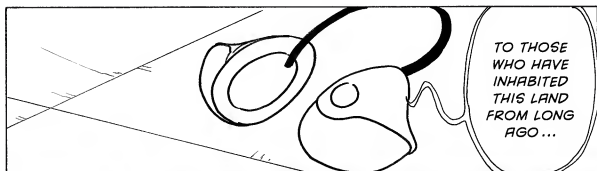


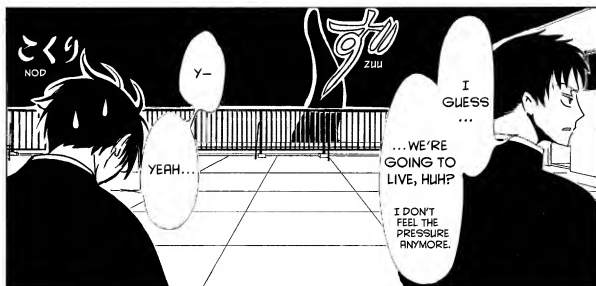
IT'S
COMING
AT US!!



IT'S
LOOKING
THIS
WAY!









...IT'S A LITTLE
DISAPPOINT-
ING THAT WE
LOST THEM.

AND...



WHY'S
THAT?



...HAD
MORE TO
THEM THAN
JUST FUNNY
LOOKS.

THOSE
EARS
...

I
GUESS
...

...THAT'S
A FAIR
EVALUATION.

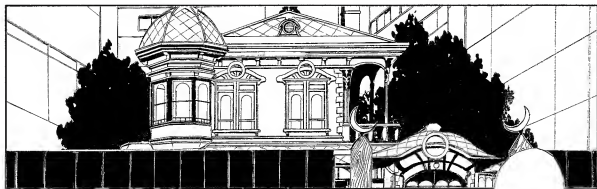


I'M GONNA
THROW YOU
OFF THE
ROOF!

××

THEIR
LOOKS
MATCHED
YOUR
BRAINS.

SEEP



THOSE
CONCEPTS
DON'T APPLY
TO NON-
HUMANS.

GOOD
AND EVIL
ARE
CONCEPTS
THAT
HUMANS
DECIDE.



YOU MEAN IT
ISN'T A BAD
SPIRIT?

NOT FOR
YOU TWO
AT THAT
PARTICULAR
TIME.



THAT
SNAKE...

...IS THE
PROTECTOR
OF THE
AREA.



SO THE
"DREGS OF THE
STUDENTS"
WERE RUNNING
RAMPANT?

EXACTLY.



IF IT'S
SOMETHING THAT
EVEN A STUDENT
FROM A DIFFERENT
SCHOOL COULD
HEAR ABOUT, THEN
IT DOESN'T HAVE
MUCH IN THE WAY
OF SUBTLETY.

IF YOU
DIDN'T GO
TO TAKE
CARE OF
IT...

...SOMEONE
REALLY WOULD
HAVE STAYED
UNTIL SHE DIED.

THE SNAKE
REMOVES
ANYTHING
THAT RUNS
RAMPANT
OVER ITS
TERRITORY.



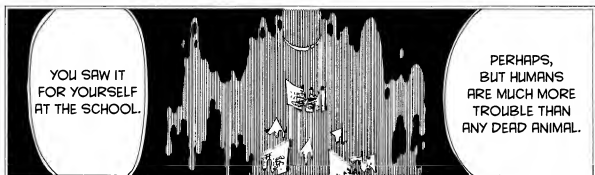
I'VE HEARD IT
ON TV, TOO.

WHEN
SOMETHING
BAD HAPPENS
THEY BLAME IT
ON ANIMAL
SPIRITS.

DON'T THEY
ALWAYS TALK
ABOUT BAD
THINGS BEING
DONE BY THE
GHOSTS OF
ANIMALS?



THERE'S
SOMETHING
ODD ABOUT
IT, THOUGH.



YOU SAW IT
FOR YOURSELF
AT THE SCHOOL.

PERHAPS,
BUT HUMANS
ARE MUCH MORE
TROUBLE THAN
ANY DEAD ANIMAL.



THE SNAKE
APPEARED
BECAUSE
IT WAS
ATTRACTED
TO YOU.

WELL,
YOU'RE
ABSOLUTELY
WRONG.

YOU
THINK
SO?

BUT IN THE
END, IT WAS THE
SNAKE THAT ATE
THE SPIRIT.

THAT WOULD
HAVE HAPPENED
WHETHER I WAS
THERE OR NOT.

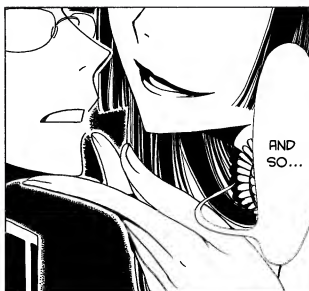
YES,
I DID ...

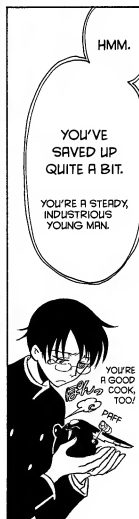
た...たしかに



THEY
WANT YOU
SO BADLY,
THEY
WOULDN'T
MIND
GROWING
HANDS
IN THEIR
THROATS
SO THEY
CAN GRAB
YOU AND
HAUL
YOU IN.

TO THE
SPIRITS,
WATANUKI,
YOU ARE ONE
DELICIOUS
MORSEL.



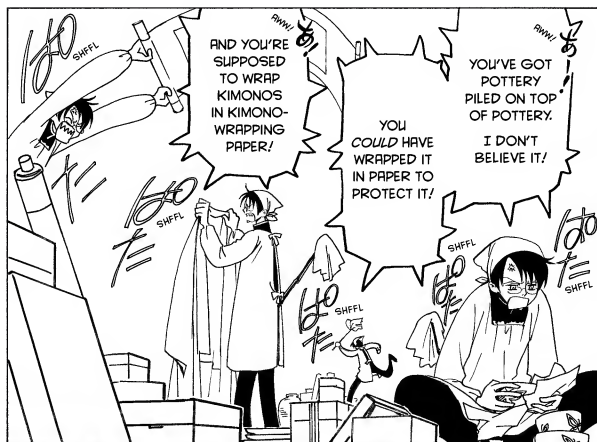


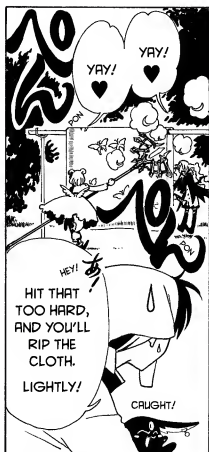


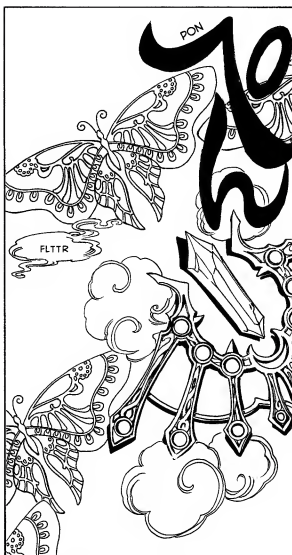


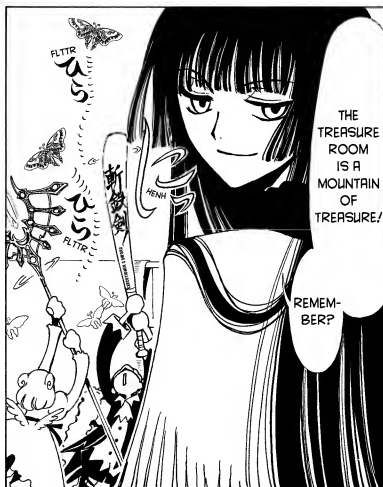












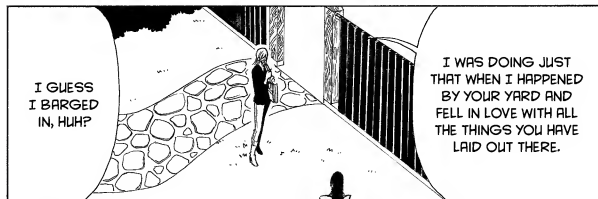






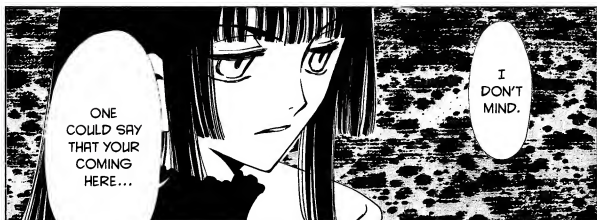
I'M
STUDYING
FOLKLORE
AT MY
UNIVERSITY.

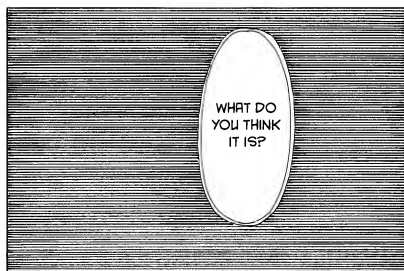
I LOVE
ANTIQUES, AND
I'M ALWAYS
MAKING ROUNDS
THROUGH THE
CURIO SHOPS
AND OTHER
COLLECTORS.

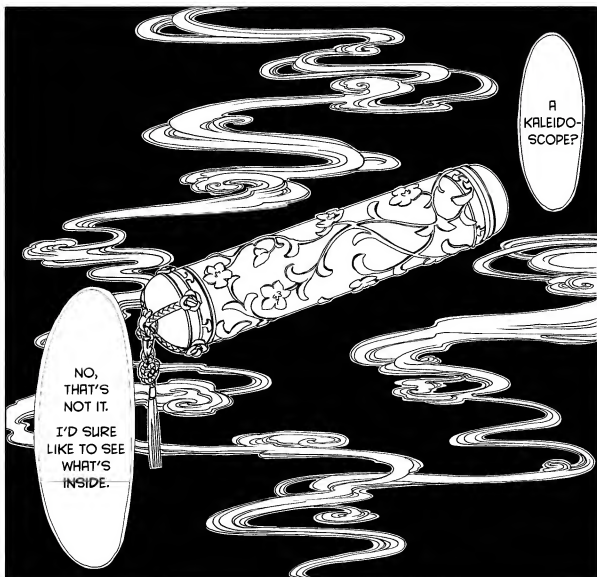


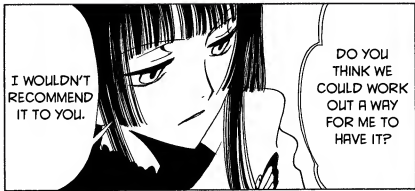
I GUESS
I BARGED
IN, HUH?

I WAS DOING JUST
THAT WHEN I HAPPENED
BY YOUR YARD AND
FELL IN LOVE WITH ALL
THE THINGS YOU HAVE
LAID OUT THERE.



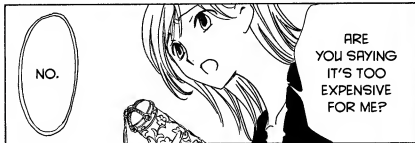






I WOULDN'T
RECOMMEND
IT TO YOU.

DO YOU
THINK WE
COULD WORK
OUT A WAY
FOR ME TO
HAVE IT?



NO.

ARE
YOU SAYING
IT'S TOO
EXPENSIVE
FOR ME?

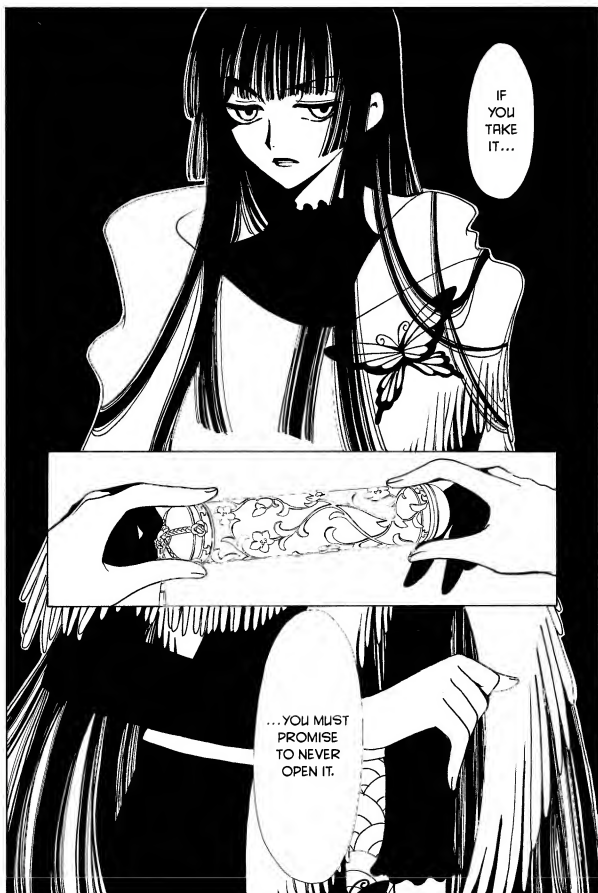


MAKE
ME A
PROMISE.

BUT...
IF I
SAID
THAT I
WANTED
IT NO
MATTER
THE
PRICE...
?



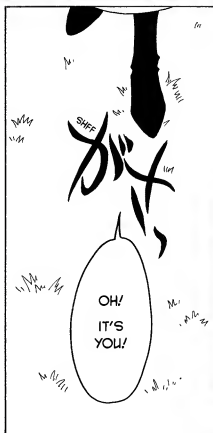
YES.





~×××ホリック~









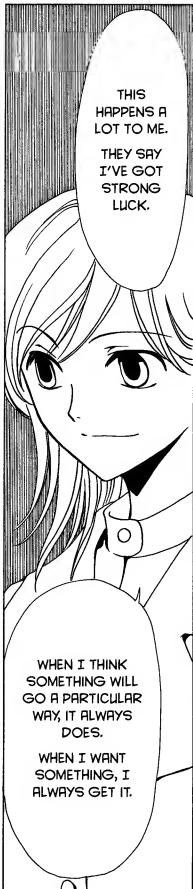
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S INSIDE
YET, BUT I KNOW
IT'S SOMETHING
PERFECT FOR ME!



THAT'S
FANTASTIC!



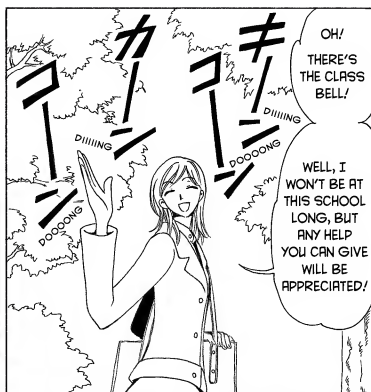
THIS,
TOO!



THIS
HAPPENS A
LOT TO ME.
THEY SAY
I'VE GOT
STRONG
LUCK.

WHEN I THINK
SOMETHING WILL
GO A PARTICULAR
WAY, IT ALWAYS
DOES.

WHEN I WANT
SOMETHING, I
ALWAYS GET IT.









SHE PROBABLY
WON'T LISTEN TO
ANYONE'S ADVICE.



I'M GOING TO
MEET HER TOMORROW.
I'LL KEEP HER FROM
DOING IT.

I'LL REMIND HER
THAT SHE SHOULDN'T
TRY TO OPEN IT.



I DOUBT YOU
CAN STOP HER.



SHE PUTS
TOO MUCH
CONFIDENCE
IN HERSELF.

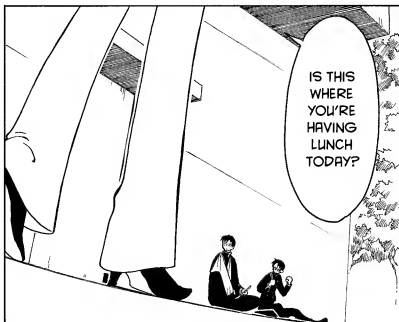
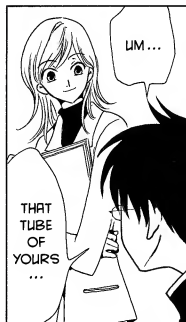


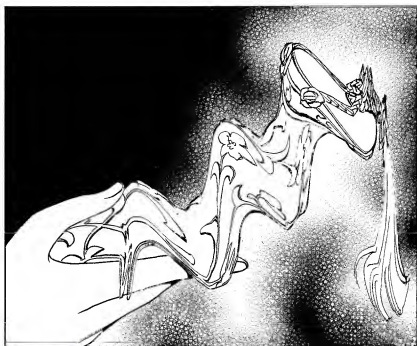
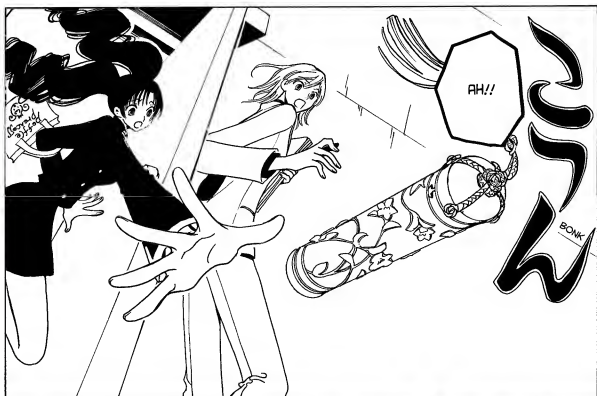


WELL, HE *DID* GET HIS INJURY WHILE HE WAS TRYING TO SAVE ME.

I GUESS MAKING HIM LUNCH AS PAYMENT ISN'T TOO BAD.

I'LL HAVE TO ASK YÜKO-SAN TO LEND ME THE BENTO BOXES FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.











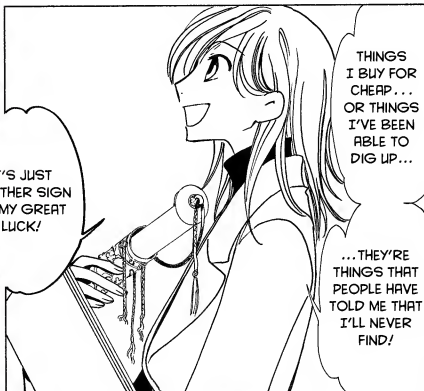




THESE
THINGS
ALWAYS
HAPPEN
TO ME!

YOU
NEVER
KNOW.

UH...
BUT IT MAY
NOT BE THE
REAL THING!



IT'S JUST
ANOTHER SIGN
OF MY GREAT
LUCK!

THINGS
I BUY FOR
CHEAP...
OR THINGS
I'VE BEEN
ABLE TO
DIG UP...

...THEY'RE
THINGS THAT
PEOPLE HAVE
TOLD ME THAT
I'LL NEVER
FIND!



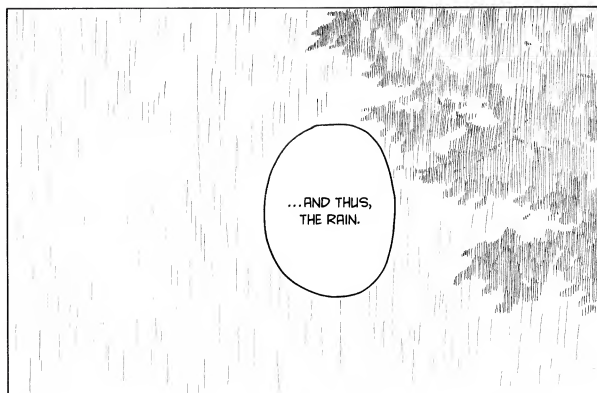
HOW
ABOUT THIS...
THE STUDENTS
IN EDUCATIONAL
TRAINING ARE
SUPPOSED TO
TAKE GYM NEXT
PERIOD.

I'LL
BE
FINE!

IF YOU'RE NOT
CAREFUL, IT
COULD TURN
OUT BAD!

UM...

I KNOW!
LET'S TEST TO
SEE WHETHER
IT'S REAL OR
NOT!











YEAH...



BUT
THE RAIN
REALLY DID
FALL LAST
NIGHT.

BEATS
ME.

HUH?
HOW CAN YOU
DRAIN WATER
WITHOUT
OPENING THE
DRAIN?!

AND OUR POOL
IS HUGE!!

IF IT
"BEATS
YOU,"
THEN
DON'T
ACT LIKE
YOU
KNOW
EVERY-
THING!

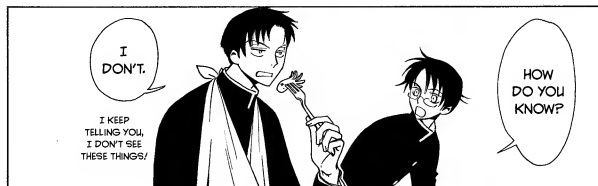


I
HEARD
THAT
TOO.

THE DRAIN
WAS NEVER
OPENED, BUT
THE POOL WAS
COMPLETELY
DRAINED OF
WATER.



FOR SOME REASON, I
DON'T THINK THE STORY
OF THIS MONKEY'S PAW
WILL END WITH "AND HER
WISH WAS GRANTED
AND SHE LIVED HAPPILY
EVER AFTER."

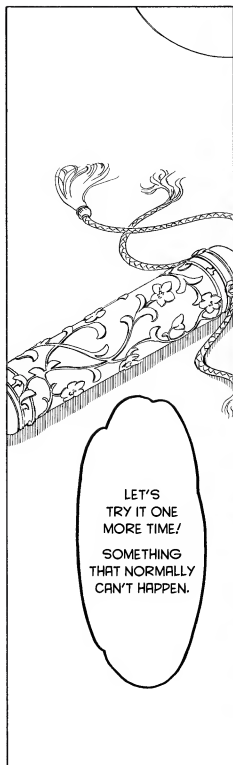


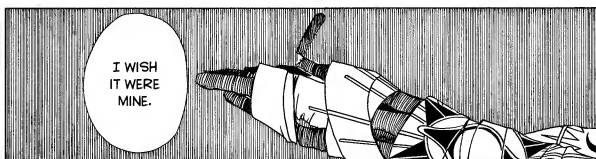
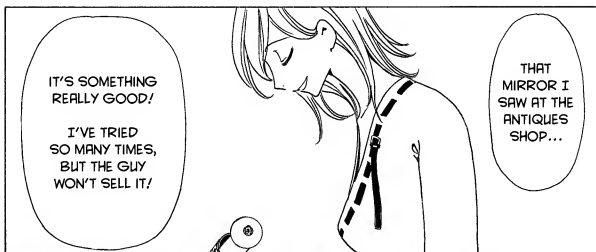
I
DON'T.

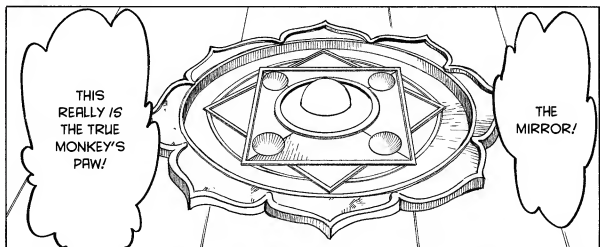
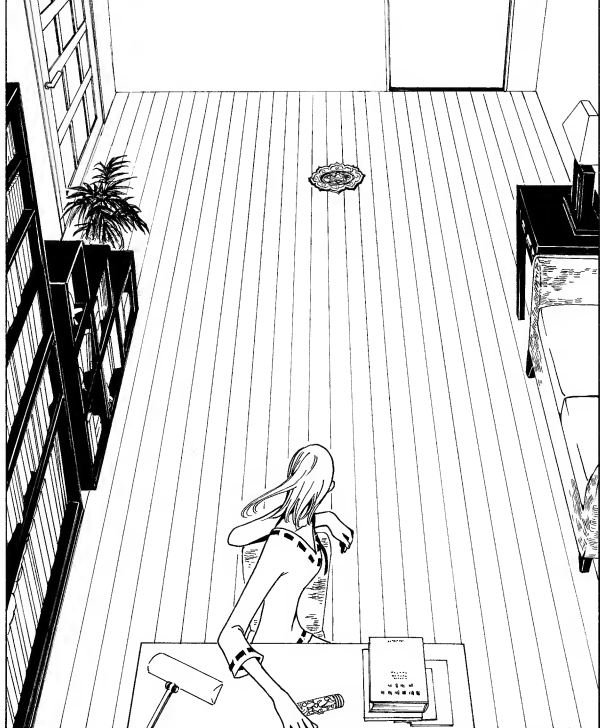
I KEEP
TELLING YOU,
I DON'T SEE
THESE THINGS!

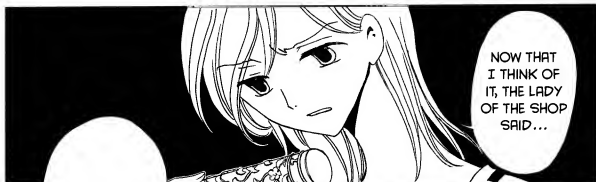
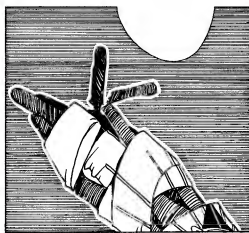
HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?









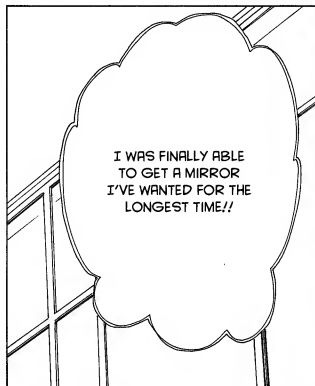
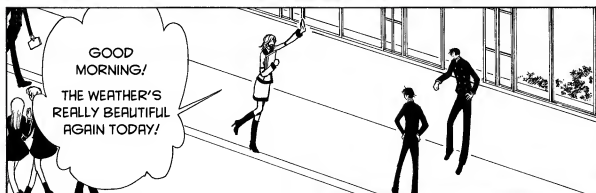
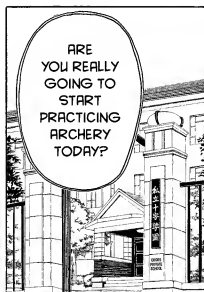




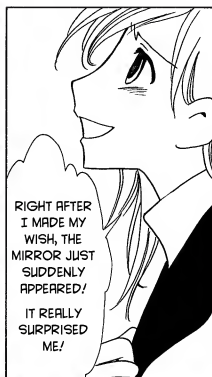


~×××ホリック~

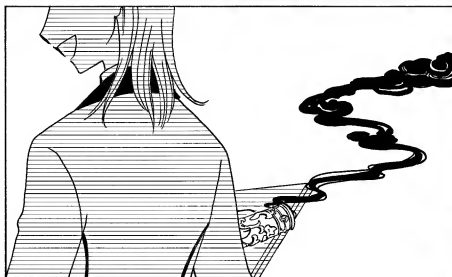


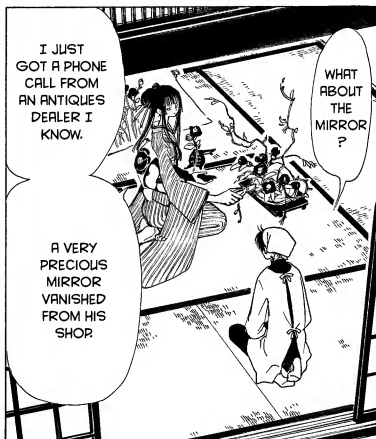














ONCE A STONE
STARTS IT CAN'T
STOP ITSELF.



...HAVEN'T I
BEEN WAITING
LONG ENOUGH
FOR THAT CAKE
ROLL?

AND
NOW,
WATA-
NUKI
...

I HOPE
THE SPONGE-
CAKE'S OKAY!

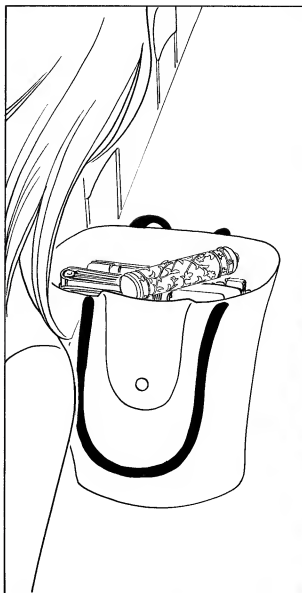
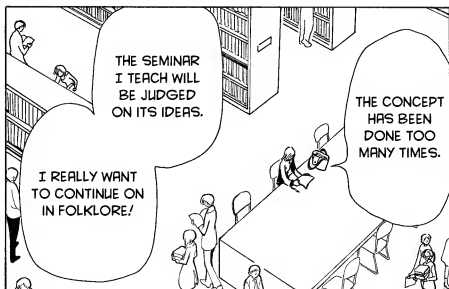
OH,
NO!



IT JUST
KEEPS
ROLLING...



...UNTIL
IT GETS TO THE
VERY BOTTOM
OF THE SLOPE.



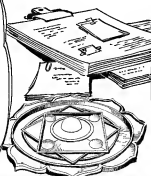






IT'S OLD.
IT HAS ALL
THE RIGHT
MARKINGS.
IT COULD BE
THE REAL "YATA
NO KAGAMI."

THIS
MIRROR WAS
A GOOD
REFERENCE,
TOO!



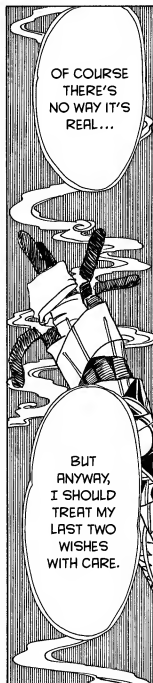
...AND THEY
LED TO ME
WRITING A
LECTURE ON
THE "YATA
NO KAGAMI"
MIRROR.

THE
MONKEY'S
PAW FOUND
ME SOME
GREAT
RESEARCH
MATERIALS...



THE FACT THAT
I HAVE THE
MONKEY'S PAW
IS A SIGN OF
MY STRONG
LUCK!

IT MAY
HAVE TURNED
OUT BAD FOR
OTHERS, BUT
I'LL BE FINE!



OF COURSE
THERE'S
NO WAY IT'S
REAL...

BUT
ANYWAY,
I SHOULD
TREAT MY
LAST TWO
WISHES
WITH CARE.





IT DOESN'T
CONCERN
ITSELF WITH
CONSEQUENCES.

THE
MONKEY'S
PAW HAS NO
EMOTION OR
GRATITUDE.

THE ONLY ONES
WHO CAN CHANGE
AN ATTITUDE ARE
THOSE WHO CAN
SEE THE OTHER
PERSON WITH
THEIR HEARTS.

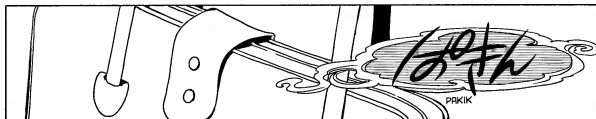
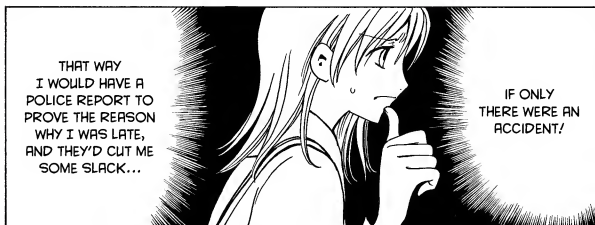
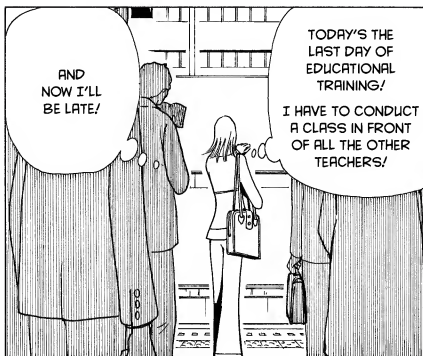


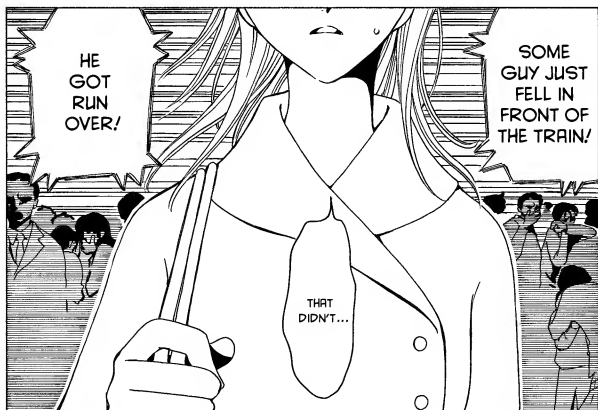
THAT'S WHY
THE "STONE"
WILL CONTINUE
TO ROLL.

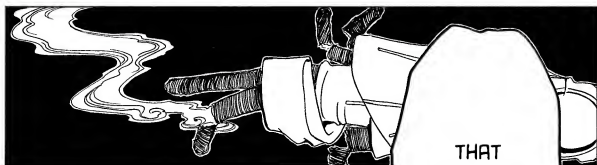
AND IT
ONLY PICKS
UP SPEED.



SHE DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW
FRIGHTENING
THAT THING IS.







THAT
DIDN'T
COUNT
AS A
WISH,
DID IT?!





...BUT WHY
DO I HAVE
TO MAKE YOU
SNACKS FOR
AFTER YOU'RE
FINISHED WITH
YOUR CLUB?!

I DON'T
MIND
MAKING
YOU
LUNCH...



I HAVE TO WORK
LATER THAN NORMAL
BECAUSE OF ALL THE
PRACTICE I MISSED
FROM MY WOUND.



WHY ARE YOU
SPOUTING
FAIRYTALES?
IT DOESN'T
FIT WITH YOUR
FACE!

TRIANGULAR
IS GOOD FOR
INARI SUSHI.
FOX-SPIRIT'S
EARS ARE
TRIANGULAR.



IT'S
IN THERE!
THE
TRIANGULAR
ONES!

SO,
DID YOU
INCLUDE
THE INARI
SUSHI?

AND I
DON'T
TAKE
ORDERS!



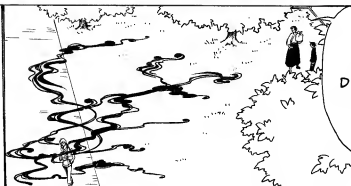
GLOOB



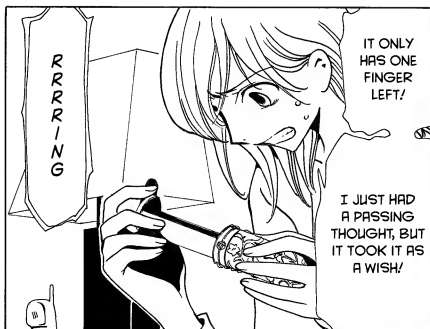
GAK!



AND I DOUBT THAT
IT'S SIMPLY BECAUSE
TODAY IS THE LAST
DAY OF TRAINING.



SHE'S
DIFFERENT
TODAY.



IT ONLY
HAS ONE
FINGER
LEFT!

I JUST HAD
A PASSING
THOUGHT, BUT
IT TOOK IT AS
A WISH!



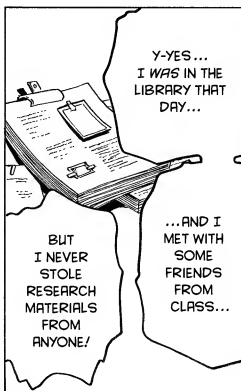
W-WAIT
JUST A
SECOND!

EH?!

.....
PROFES-
SOR!



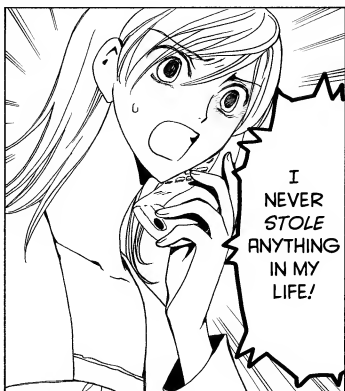
HELLO?



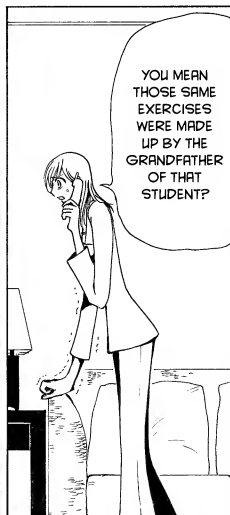
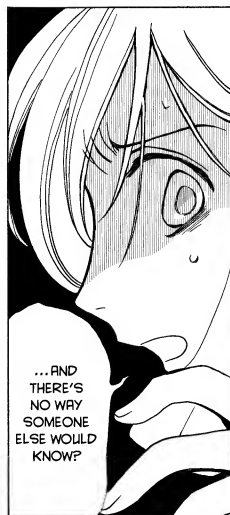
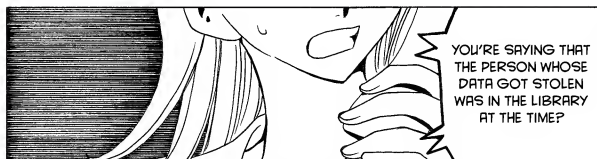
Y-YES...
I WAS IN THE
LIBRARY THAT
DAY...

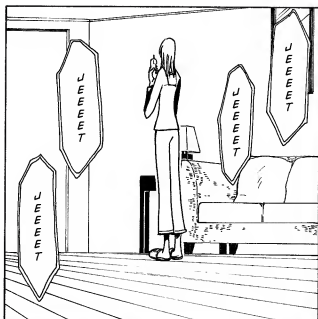
BUT
I NEVER
STOLE
RESEARCH
MATERIALS
FROM
ANYONE!

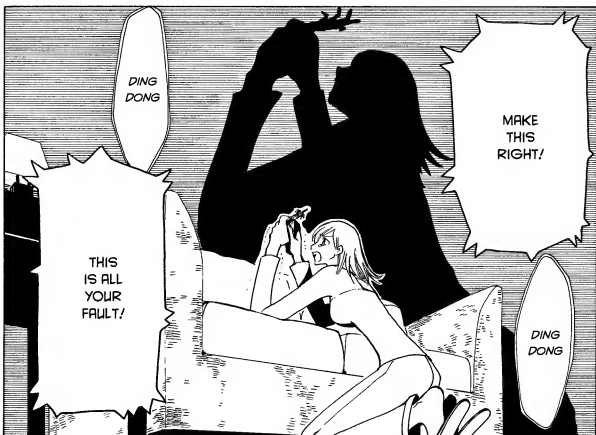
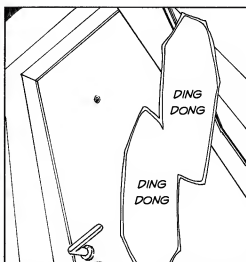
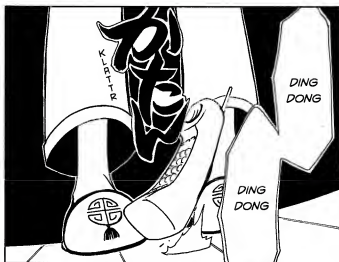
...AND I
MET WITH
SOME
FRIENDS
FROM
CLASS...

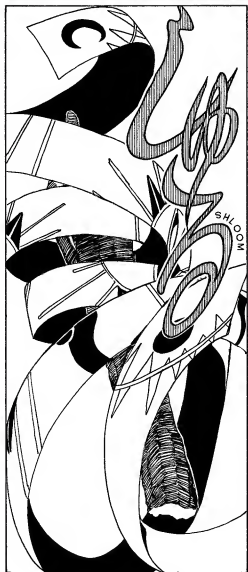


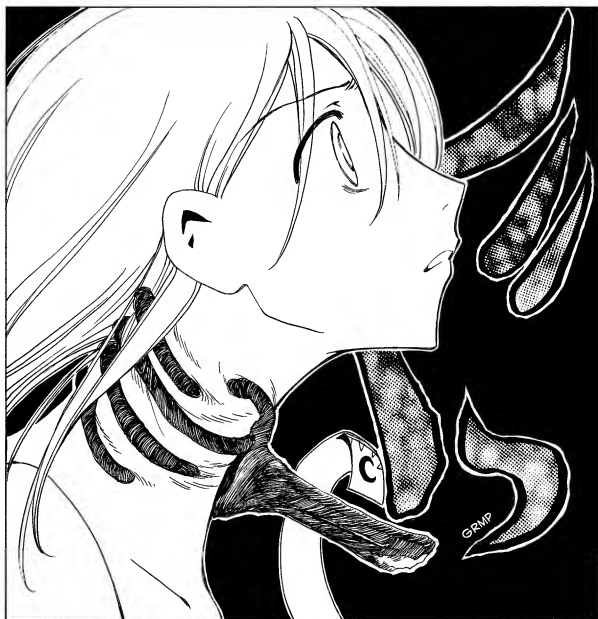
I
NEVER
STOLE
ANYTHING
IN MY
LIFE!

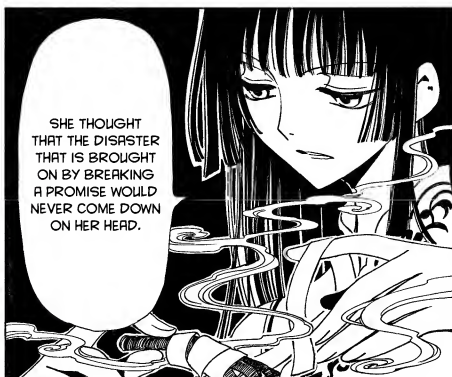
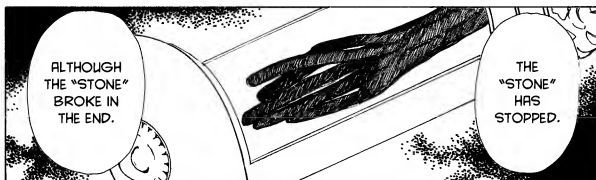










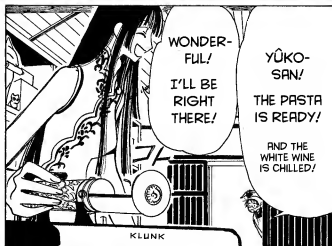




NO ONE CAN
CONSIDER
THEMSELVES
SPECIAL.



NOW THAT I
THINK OF IT,
I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THAT
EDUCATIONAL
TRAINING
STUDENT.

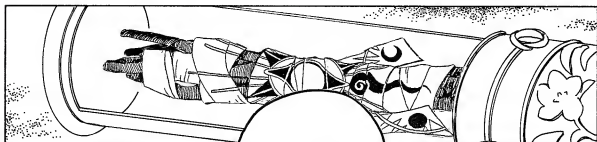


WONDER-
FUL!
I'LL BE
RIGHT
THERE!

YŪKO-
SAN!
THE PASTA
IS READY!

AND THE
WHITE WINE
IS CHILLED!

KLUNK



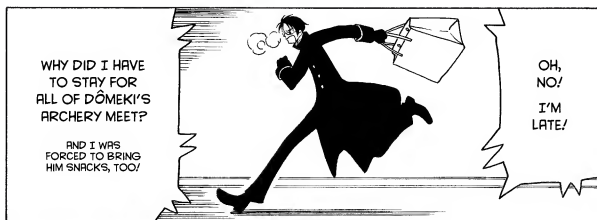
BUT I'M SURE
THAT HER "WISH"
WAS GRANTED.

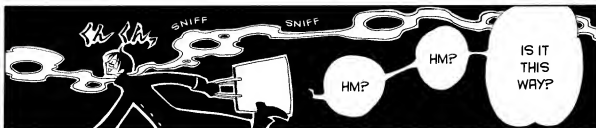
KACHAK





~×××× ホリック ~







MAYBE
THEY GIVE
OUT SAMPLES!

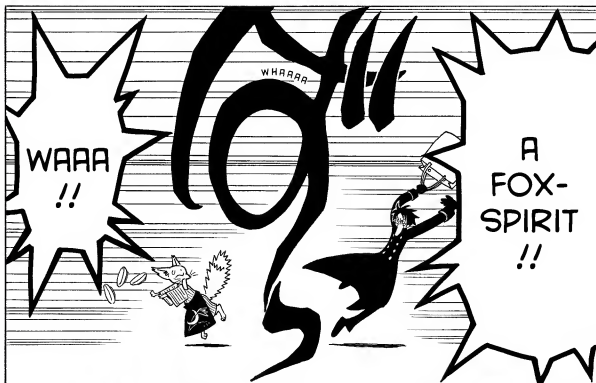
IF IT'S
GOOD, I'LL
BRING THIS
BACK FOR
DINNER!



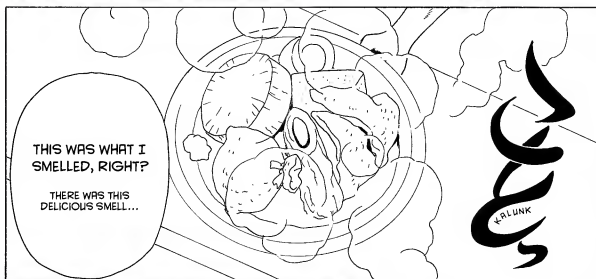
I WONDER
WHAT THEY
SELL.

HEY!
IT'S A
FOOD-
VENDOR'S
STAND!

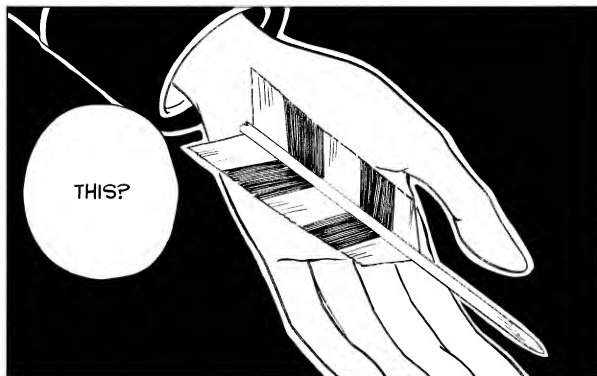






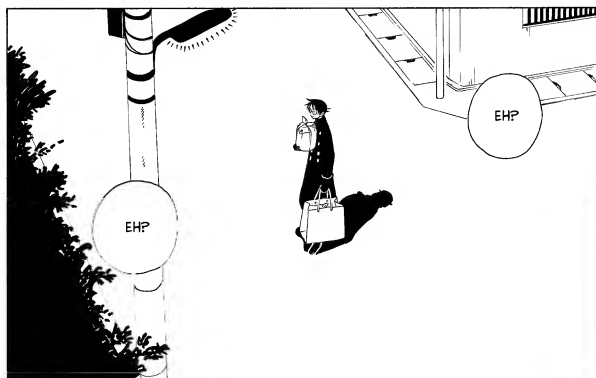


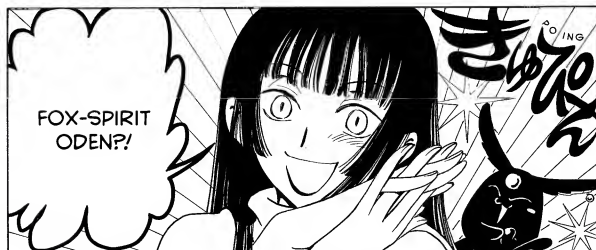














Translation Notes

For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes to help you understand some of the cultural and story references from our translation of *xxxHOLiC*.



Onigiri (Rice balls)

In Japan, when you say lunch away from home, you say *onigiri*. Usually made by mother but available at any grocery store, convenience store, or food kiosk, this is as much a staple of the Japanese lunchbox as sandwiches in the United States. It is made from a triangle of sticky rice and a seaweed

wrapper for holding, and although it may consist of just rice and seaweed, it sometimes includes a filling in the center such as grilled salmon or a sour pickled plum (*umeboshi*).

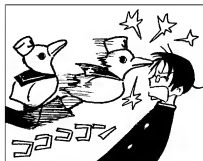
Star Wars

In the world of manga fandom, one of the biggest criticisms leveled at U.S. publishers of manga has to do with story adaptations. Unsurprisingly, since manga was originally published in Japan it often contains cultural references that may not make much sense to an American reader. Some publishers have therefore opted to change the references so that they make more sense here. The reason we bring this up is to make sure you know that this is not what we are doing here—in the original Japanese text, Kimihiro really is talking about *Star Wars*!



Casshern

A popular 1973 TV anime show in which a scientist created a robot to clean up pollution. Unfortunately a lightning strike scrambled the brain of the powerful robot, turning it into a monomaniacal, robot-army-wielding menace. The scientist's son, Tetsuya, fuses himself with a robot to become the New Superhero Casshern, who fights the good fight against the robot army. By his side is his loyal bionic dog Friender (or Flender), and they are aided by a robot swan named Swanny, which contains the essence of Tetsuya's mother.



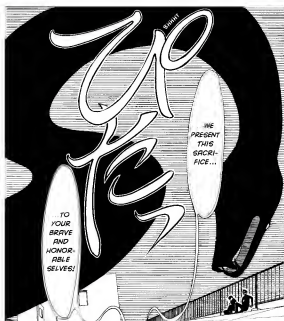
Angel-san, Kokkuri-san ("Prophesy-san")

Anyone who has bought the Parker Brother's game, Ouija, and tried to get some questions answered will recognize what is going on with Himawari-chan's friend. However, it seems that Kokkuri-san is a cousin to its American counterpart only in that both are taken from a form of mysticism found in the mid-to-late 1800s called Table Tilting. It was a form of divination that became popular because it could be done without a medium (and we all know what Yûko-san would say about that!).

Chobits

The ears, children's book, and Mokona's calling out of "Chi!" are all from the popular CLAMP manga *Chobits*.





Protective Spirits and Ancestor Worship

The Shinto religion is an animistic belief centering on spirits which imbue natural phenomena (rivers, trees, etc.) with a spiritual essence. Although they are commonly referred to as gods (*kami*), they aren't the same kind of all-powerful gods that can be found in western religions. The ubiquitous household Shinto shrines found in most homes are also dedicated to a family's ancestors who have become *kami*,

and in the transformation are now dedicated to protecting the family in the spirit world. The snake that Kimihiro sees includes the natural *kami* and ancestors of the area combined to protect the neighborhood.

Bento Boxes

Some restaurants have taken the name of "bento" to describe any lunch that's packed up to-go, but the traditional lacquered, multi-level bento box, filled with sushi or other traditional foods, is a real treat!



Monkey's Paw

The legend of the Monkey's Paw appeared first in a short story written by William Wymark (W.W.)

Jacobs in the magazine *Harper's Monthly* in 1902.

Its many adaptations into movies, radio dramas, and TV programs have turned it from a turn-of-the-twentieth-century morality play regarding the

dangers of the expansive British Empire into an occult myth. But who knows? W.W. Jacobs grew up on the docks of the port section of

London called Wapping and saw ships arrive from all parts of the world-spanning empire, so who can say what actual events may have inspired the story?

Kitsune Fox Spirits

Like foxes in the west, fox spirits in Japan have been portrayed as both cute, sympathetic characters, and evil, mischievous characters in the many tales about them. Usually they have magic powers such as the ability to imitate any human, but they are generally portrayed as hardworking creatures that keep to themselves. The Fushimi Inari Shrine outside of Kyoto, a beautiful set of winding mountain paths under hundreds of red, Japanese arches leading to a shrine at the summit, is dedicated to the god Inari, the god of rice, and to the foxes who are his emissaries.



Oden

An inexpensive stew, subtly flavored, can feature fish, tofu, squid, octopus, mochi (rice paste), seaweed, chicken, dumplings, eggs, radishes, potatoes, and other meats, vegetables, and concoctions. Although it is a stew, the elements (meat and veggies) are usually skewered on kaboblike sticks for easy access. Oden is served in restaurants, but the more common place to find it is in sidewalk stalls much like the fox spirit's stall in the episode.

